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THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

The irony of the situation is complete. Here is noble Lord after noble Lord pronouncing in favour of settling the Irish Church question by what is called "concurrent endowment"—that is, by "levelling up"—after the House of Commons and the country have for more than twelve months been declaring that there shall be no "levelling up"! And here, too, is prelate after prelate confessing to a preference in the same direction after bishops, church dignitaries, and clergymen of all degrees, have for an equal length of time been denouncing Mr. Gladstone, in not very Christian or clerical language, because, as they alleged, he meant to favour the Roman Catholics at the expense of the Anglican communion in Ireland! How do rabid Churchmen in England, and still more rabid Orangemen in Ireland, who have been raving about "Judas Iscariot" and the "best friend of the Pope," feel now, when their great idols

and chosen champions the Peers, temporal and spiritual, are acknowledging their readiness to devote the funds of the Irish Protestant Establishment to the support and propagation of Popery—the very thing, that is, against which said rabid Churchmen and Orangemen have been bawling themselves hoarse in protesting for months past? Are they content to accept this old-new theory? and are they willing, for the sake of keeping a little more pelf for the parsons, to hand over a share of the "plunder" to the priests, thereby confessing that Popery and Protestantism are equally true, equally good, and therefore equally entitled to national favour and national support? The irony of the situation, as we have said, is tolerably complete as it is; but, should the "levelling up" notion have general acceptance, we may live to go through all the degrees of comparison. The concurrence of ultra-Protestants would make it completer; while, if Government and the Roman Catholics

agreed, it would be completest. Professions would have been falsified all round, and Lord Mayo would indeed be avenged of his political friends, who induced him to broach his levelling-up scheme, and then deserted him; as well as of his political opponents, who denounced his proposal, and then adopted it.

But, whatever Churchmen may do, we feel tolerably certain that the Government, the House of Commons, and the general intelligence of the country will agree with Lord Granville in declaring concurrent endowment impracticable, even were it desirable, which we are persuaded the majority of the people are agreed in thinking it is not. The objects proposed to be effected by the disestablishment and disendowment of the Anglican Church in Ireland are twofold—first, to inaugurate a system of perfect equality among all religious communions there; and, second, to remove, perfectly and for ever, a source of jealousy and



THE REVIEW AT WINDSOR IN HONOUR OF THE VICEROY OF EGYPT: THE ROYAL CARRIAGE.



heartburning by utterly obliterating its cause; and no system of concurrent endowment that can be carried will accomplish either the one object or the other. If concurrent endowment is to be perfect and fair, each denomination ought to receive an amount of wealth proportioned to its numbers; and how is this to be effected? Is the Anglican Establishment to be left in possession of the whole or the greater part of its present property, and the rest of the country to be taxed to the extent of several millions sterling a year in order to raise the Roman Catholics and Dissenters to the same level? This, it may be safely said, is a proposition that will not be entertained for a moment. Then, are the existing Church funds to be redistributed among the various religious communions in Ireland in proportion to their numbers—that is, are six-sevenths of the Church property to be handed over to the Roman Catholics and the remaining moiety to be distributed among Anglicans, Presbyterians, and others? Will Irish Churchmen and their friends in England concur in this? Again it may be safely said that they will not. Next, abandoning the principle of equalisation, and leaving the lion's share of the ecclesiastical funds to the Church, is it likely that the Roman Catholics would feel anything save insulted by the offer of the mere pittance that would fall to their lot? In no way, then, can equality, and therefore contentment and peace, be secured by any possible system of levelling up; and the only alternative is to adopt the Government scheme, and make all sects equal by endowing none.

So much for the concurrent endowment project, looked at in a general way; but, if examined in detail, it is equally unsatisfactory. Taking the mildest development of the plan, and the one likely to meet with the largest measure of support in the House of Lords—to wit, that of the Duke of Cleveland—it is impossible to see how it can ever secure the end in view of finally establishing perfect religious equality in Ireland. His Grace—assuming, apparently, that the residences and glebes will be handed over free of charge to existing incumbents, as proposed by other peers—suggests that the Church Commissioners shall be empowered to advance such sums as may be necessary to provide suitable residences, and a glebe of ten acres, to each Roman Catholic parochial priest and Presbyterian minister where no such residence and glebe now exist. Now, when is the process of house-building and glebe-buying to end? Is it to be carried on for ever, so as to meet all possible contingencies that may hereafter arise? or, are the wants of existing parish priests and Presbyterian ministers only to be provided for, and all congregations, whether Roman Catholic or Presbyterian, that may come into existence in the future to be "left out in the cold" and compelled to shift for themselves? If the first, is not that pledging a limited fund—namely, the surplus of Church revenues remaining after providing for the claims of the existing Establishment—to the performance of an illimitable work? and, if the second, how many years would elapse ere cases of destitution, and consequently of inequality, would arise? It is impossible to guarantee that the present arrangement of parishes and the present location of congregations shall continue for all time; circumstances will change, population will migrate from one point to another, new wants will arise, and, if there be no means of supplying them—as how can there be for ever?—new hardships, fresh inequalities, and renewed jealousies will spring into existence. Then, again, parishes and congregations which already possess residences are not to be taken into account; it is only destitute districts that are to be provided for. But the new residences and glebes are likely—indeed, are certain—to be superior, as a rule, to the old ones; and here you have inequality cropping up again, and with it, of course, new elements of discontent and envy. Priest will probably become jealous of priest, minister of minister, parish of parish, congregation of congregation. The mischief will not be cured; it will only be shifted from communions to congregations, from collective bodies to individuals. Such inequalities, we know, do now exist, both in the Established Church and out of it; but they are not the less galling on that account, and they would not cease to be productive of evil consequences by being indefinitely multiplied in number and degree. Under a voluntary system inequality to some extent is felt to be unavoidable, and is submitted to with patience in consequence; but for the State to affect to introduce a system of equality, and to fail, could not be otherwise than productive of mischief, and therefore had better not be attempted.

Quitting this notion of concurrent endowment, however, we wish to direct attention to another feature of the proposed amendments which helps to complete the irony of the situation. When the controversy about the abolition of the Anglo-Hibernian Church commenced, a great deal of "tall talk" was indulged in as to the sacredness of the principle of establishments. We were told that it was the indefeasible duty of the nation to provide the means of grace for the people; that all public acts should be sanctified by a visible acknowledgment of Divine law and submission to Divine will; that Crown, and Parliament, and people should in all things recognise God and provide for the teaching of true religion; and deadly sin was imputed to all who dared to insinuate that national establishments of religion were not the best—nay, the sole—means of accomplishing these ends. What has become of all this "highfalutin" now? The so-called "sacred" principle of establishments is all but abandoned; peers, lay and cleric, accept the decision of the country so far as disestablishment is concerned, and are mainly occupied in looking after the

"leaves and fishes"—in squabbling over the endowments. And in this unworthy scramble the prelates are especially prominent. The amendments proposed by the Lords Spiritual are almost exclusively occupied with the temporalities of the Church; while any care devoted to the future constitution of that Church is left to lay peers. Reversing the dictum of the Apostles, the prelates are doing something very like abandoning the duty of the altar in order to serve tables. Their concern is not for the cure of souls, but for the saving of worldly substance. The Archbishop of Canterbury proposes to shift back the date when private donations to the Church shall be reckoned exclusively her own from 1660 to 1560, and includes also all Royal grants from the same date, so as to bag a very pretty sum into the Church net; the Archbishop of York makes a still larger demand, for he wants to double the value of incumbencies, by making fourteen years instead of seven the limit of commutation for the purchase of life interests; the Bishop of Peterborough asks that all benefices shall be raised to the value of £200 a year at least, whatever the duties to be performed in lieu thereof, while no reductions are to be made anywhere; the Archbishop of Dublin would include the salaries of curates in estimating the incomes of beneficed clergymen without deducting their salaries from the value of the living, and irrespective of the reasons why curates are employed, or whether or not their services are necessary. As a contemporary pointedly remarks:—"The Bishops are careful stewards of the things of Caesar. They take good care of the mammon of unrighteousness. How to make the best of both worlds is a problem which they have apparently studied with success." And perhaps, from their point of view, the reverend prelates are right—that is, if it be true, as some people believe, that in clerical eyes endowment constitutes the essence of establishment.

To crown the irony of the situation, Lord Westbury proposes to give a lump sum of £2,000,000 to the Roman Catholics, £1,000,000 to the Presbyterians, and the residue—that is, about £13,000,000—of the Church property to the Anglicans. We might again ask if this will content the Catholics and Dissenters? But what we wish to call attention to here is, that the noble and learned Lord further proposes that the distribution to each sect shall be *pari passu*; that is, that an indefinite and unascertained (not to say unrealised) sum shall be distributed at the same time as a fixed and definite amount. This ingenious proposal is something like the resolution passed by the wise men of a certain northern city, who determined to build a new bridge over their river on the site of an old one, and to use the old structure till the new was finished. But neither Lord Westbury's scheme of distribution, nor the way in which it is to be carried out, need be further discussed, for it is not likely to be entertained. It serves, however, to complete the irony of the situation, and to prove, with the bulk of the amendments proposed, that the peers have not yet adopted Mr. Bright's advice, to "bring themselves on a line with the nation" in this question of the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of England in Ireland.

THE WINDSOR REVIEW.

THE TROOPS ENGAGED.

THE military spectacle which was prepared last Saturday by order of the Queen, in honour of the Viceroy of Egypt, was of extraordinary brilliancy. As a display of drilled and disciplined squadrons, battalions, and batteries, the show could not be excelled so far as equipment, personal composition, horses, and material are concerned; but the ground was limited for the handling of even such a small force as was assembled upon it. The total of the troops on the field was, in round numbers, 5000 men. These represented a division of an army tolerably complete in infantry, cavalry, and guns; but, as it was intended merely to have a "show" day, no attempt was made to furnish the force with the vital supplement of transport, supply, engineer trains, and ambulances which would be needed in the field. General Lord Lucan, G.C.B., commanded in chief; Major-General Hamilton commanded the brigade of Foot Guards; Major-General Lord George Paget commanded the Household Cavalry, and Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Light (formerly of the Indian Artillery) commanded the Artillery. Thus, in command of this little army there were four officers of experience in actual warfare. Lord Lucan's active services in the Crimea, terminated abruptly after the action of Oct. 25, 1854, are well known. Major-General Lord George Paget, who led the 4th Light Dragoons in the charge of the Light Division on that day, and has since held a command in India, is now Inspector-General of Cavalry at home. Major-General F. W. Hamilton, C.B., was with the Guards throughout the Crimea. Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Light served all through the Indian mutiny. It is, perhaps, as well to call attention to the experience of these officers, that it may not be supposed the little hitches which arose in the course of certain manoeuvres were at all due to want of skill or military ability on the part of the senior officers.

The occasion was one of no ordinary interest. The almost Imperial vassal of our ancient ally the Sultan, coming to this country immediately after his splendid welcome to the Heir-Apparent to the throne, finds that his hospitality and his Royal courtesies are not forgotten or undervalued. A foreign Prince who sees the Guards, the Household Cavalry, and a couple of batteries of Armstrong guns will very probably confess that they cannot be exceeded—to say the least of it—by the choicest troops in each arm of the most accomplished military nation. The Queen, who has ever evinced a Royal attachment to her Navy and Army, naturally gave the Viceroy the opportunity; and, as we have said, the display was all that could have been expected. The day was fine—just sun enough to light up arms and weapons, and breeze enough to blow smoke away and cloud enough to fleck the meadows with cool passing shadows. The camps in the park had no rude experience of bad weather; they afforded amusement to the people all around, and her Majesty honoured them with a visit. The day was kept as a holiday in Windsor and Eton—shops shut, flags flying from steeple and window, bells ringing, and processions of vehicles along the roads and of pedestrians through the fields. Many hundreds came from London and the country round; and, as a soldier dearly loves to see his fellows at work, Aldershot and the Military Club furnished no small contingent of men in uniform.

THE GROUND.

The scene of the review is familiar to all who know Windsor Park. It lies between Queen Anne's Ride and the Long Walk—

a fair green field, dotted with clumps of trees and bounded by the walls of verdure which mark the course of the two Royal thoroughfares. The clear frontage available for work is not more than 1300 yards; the extreme breadth from Queen Anne's Ride to the Long Walk is not more than 900 yards. A troop of that most useful corps, the Royal Engineer Train, came over from Aldershot two days previously, and on the day of the review the pontoon across the Thames at Datchet was laid, under the eyes of her Majesty and Prince Christian and the Viceroy, in about ten minutes, by Captain E. Micklem, commanding the troop (A). The third battalion Grenadier Guards and first and second battalions Scots Fusilier Guards, which arrived some time before the pontoon was ready, marched across in order, and proceeded to the "rendezvous," where the whole of the six battalions made a grand display collected together for the first time in such numbers since the time of the Crimean War. Towards four o'clock all the preparations for the review were tolerably complete. The Guards were at the "rendezvous," the artillery were in their places, the two regiments of Life Guards had left their camp, and the Blues had joined them, and at 4.30 the line was in process of formation—one of the prettiest sights of the day. The railways, so far as we know, did their work punctually. Great Western and South-Western conveyed their battalions and their passengers with punctuality, if not with dispatch. A small Fusilier corps, formed of the 5th (Northumbrians), old Indians of the 7th, and of the 23rd Welsh, had been for some days previously at work on the ground making themselves useful; and the 5th Dragoon Guards (Colonel Calthorpe's), about 530 strong, officers and men, kept the ground which was not in charge of the police, and furnished an escort to the Queen and staff.

ARRIVAL OF THE QUEEN AND THE VICEROY.

A little before half-past four a solitary gun from the castle announced that the Queen had left, and was driving towards the review-ground. One gun from the artillery on the ground quickly boomed out, and was rapidly succeeded by the whole number which forms a Royal salute. Hardly had the echoes of the artillery died away among the trees of the forest, or the Royal standard which floated heavily in the gentle breeze been run up to the head of the flagstaff, when the leading files of the Royal escort, formed of the 5th Dragoon Guards, appeared on the ground. Slowly, and amidst long roars of continuous cheering, the Queen moved to the flagstaff, where the carriage paused beneath the standard. A sharp word of command from Lord Lucan, who was at the head of the force, was distinctly audible everywhere; and, as if inspired by one single mind, with a quick rattle of steel every sword sprang to the salute, every rifle to the present, to greet the Sovereign. While the strains of the National Anthem rose from the various bands, the rigid line remained silent and unmoved, except where the fitful wind stirred the tall plumes of the horsemen, and made them cast now and then a shadow over the bright line of cuirasses, which gleamed like silver in the summer sun. As the last notes of music faded away, another sharp word of command, another rattle of steel, and the whole line sank into studied repose. The Royal party moved slowly from the saluting-post, and, passing along the line of Eton boys, who cheered with all their power, drove towards the right of the line, and proceeded slowly along its front. As the head of the escort reached each regiment the band struck up the Egyptian National Hymn, which had a spirit-stirring effect, as it was taken up by band after band. After inspecting the line, the Sovereign returned to the flagstaff, and the march past commenced.

THE MANOEUVRES.

The "Morning State" of the force gave the following:—1st Life Guards—24 officers, 248 men, and 275 horses; 2nd Life Guards—23 officers, 236 men, and 259 horses; Royal Horse Guards—22 officers, 240 men, 252 horses; Royal Horse Artillery C troop, C brigade—7 officers, 131 men, 141 horses; Royal Artillery, B battery, 4th brigade—5 officers, 107 men, and 262 horses. Infantry.—Grenadier Guards, second battalion—27 officers, 633 men, 4 horses; third battalion—28 officers, 635 men, 4 horses; Coldstream Guards, first battalion—29 officers, 659 men, 4 horses; second battalion—30 officers, 583 men, 4 horses. Scots Fusilier Guards, first battalion—33 officers, 674 men, 4 horses; second battalion—28 officers, 622 men, and 4 horses; making a total of 266 officers, 4788 men, 1045 horses.

The proportion of officers to men was thus very large indeed. In the 1st Life Guards about one to ten; in the 2nd, about one to ten; in the Blues one to eleven. In the Royal Artillery troop it was about one to nineteen; in the battery it was one to fifteen. In the Guards, on an average, the proportion of officers to men was one to twenty-two. In each case there are non-commissioned officers included in the number of rank and file. The line was formed nearly parallel to the Long Walk, and therefore a little obliquely to the line of spectators in front of Queen Anne's Ride. With very small trouble or shifting, the troops took up what is to military men nearly the natural order of their formation in a review—cavalry on the left, infantry on the centre, and artillery on the right. The cavalry brigade—1st Life Guards, Colonel Dudley De Ros; Royal Horse Guards (Blue), Lieutenant-Colonel Baillie; and 2nd Life Guards, Colonel F. Marshall—was formed in contiguous close column front of wings on the right, Lord George Paget in command, as has been previously stated. On its left the brigade of Guards, under Major-General Hamilton, C.B., was formed in line. Grenadier Guards, Colonel Bruce; second battalion, Colonel King; third battalion, Colonel Randolph. The Scots Fusilier Guards, Colonel Stephenson; first battalion, Colonel Hepburn; second battalion, Colonel Lord Abinger. The Coldstream Guards, Colonel the Hon. A. Hardinge; first battalion, Colonel the Hon. P. Feilding; second battalion, Colonel Baring. The artillery was formed on the left of the Guards' brigade, and held the right of the line—C troop Royal Horse Artillery and B battery Royal Artillery, in the latter of which his Royal Highness Prince Arthur is serving, and in which he took his place during the day's work. The Guards, having passed the line of spectators to the right of the Queen, took ground "by fours" to the left, to leave room for the Household Cavalry, which had countermarched by squadrons. The Horse Artillery in front, having countermarched by the outer flank of the cavalry, came round and placed themselves on the flank of the horse. Then, the cavalry leading, they moved off left in front, and cantered past the Royal standard. It is said they went too fast. It is certain they went very well. For the civilian world, neither cavalry nor artillery can ever go *too* fast as long as they keep order. When near the end of the ground the cavalry took to a trot, and so wheeled. The artillery, having reached the extreme right of the ground of the original line, wheeled to the right, and, coming at full speed towards the centre of it, near the Long Walk, formed front opposite the marching-past flag, and then, unlimbering, opened fire. The cavalry, following, swept round in the same direction, and wheeled into line behind the artillery. The infantry, meantime, which had passed in mass, countermarched columns and formed in two lines, deploying with the right thrown forward in an oblique line from the left towards the line of cavalry and guns. At this stage of the action the cavalry, under Lord George Paget, was supposed to advance and show front to an enemy appearing from its side of Queen Anne's Ride. But the advance was very rapid, and ended in something very like a charge. As the horse began to move, the guns, dividing into half batteries, formed on the flanks of the cavalry. But horse and gun, being supposed to be exposed to the action of a superior force, retired, the former by alternate squadrons, and formed line by the Long Walk. The infantry now came into play. The cavalry having left their front clear and retired behind them, the Guards were left to receive the enemy's pursuing horse. They formed square at once to receive it, and after some hesitation opened fire on various points, according to the fancy of the officer in command as to the position of the supposed foe. Their fire was, however, quite enough to put an end to cavalry movements, and the discomfited troopers wheeled about and prepared to retire to whence they came *in nubibus*. Our own cavalry,

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Emperor was at an agricultural exhibition at Beauvais on Sunday, and, in reply to an address from the Mayor, as appears from an official report, his Majesty declared that the progress made in agriculture and manufactures was mainly due to the good order maintained during the last seventeen years, which good order would assuredly never be disturbed. In another speech the Emperor told the Bishop of Beauvais that he always deferentially received the addresses of bishops, because they contained expressions of piety, and called holy doctrines to mind. Should his prayers be heard, religion would be held in honour, the people happy, and France great and prosperous.

The fire was rapid and heavy, but not so very terrible sometimes as might be expected. As it slackened the cavalry advanced and formed in close columns of regiments. Then the infantry opened fire from the faces of the squares, and the enemy were again forced to turn. The cavalry, passing through the intervals of the squares, formed and attacked; but the line was not all that it might have been. From double columns of squadrons they ought to have formed in line and charged obliquely, instead of which they came on right towards the spectators. Still, the effect was very fine. The Guards then formed in two lines, while the cavalry were reforming, and brought their right forward, falling back by companies to let the cavalry pass through as occasion required, till they had formed line in rear of the infantry. This done, the infantry advanced in line and opened fire, the second line passing through the first.

Now there were certain indications that the day was nearly over. The Duke of Cambridge was seen to gallop over to Lord Lucan, after a short conversation with her Majesty. All movements ceased for a few seconds, and then the Guards threw out covering points to the front to take up line. They were preparing for the grand salute. The force was now in three lines—two of infantry, there not being room to form in one line, the third (of the cavalry) in rear of the second line. Then, with bands playing, the General and his staff in the centre, and in advance of the line, the Guards, with that grand composure of step and uniformity of front which convey such an impression of irresistible solidity and strength, advanced and saluted the Queen, and the Windsor review and manoeuvres were over.

WHO WOULD BE A PRINCE?—"An effort is being made to induce the Prince and Princess of Wales to extend their visit to Hull for a few hours; but it appears probable, according to present arrangements, that their Royal Highnesses will return to London the same evening." Are you surprised that their Royal Highnesses intend to make so short a stay? Read what follows:—"Addresses will be presented at the station by the Town Council, by the Dock Company, by the Chamber of Commerce, by the Consuls, and by the Danish residents." Why not also by the Custom-House officers, the police, the fire brigade, and the velocipedists? Do you wonder now that the Prince and Princess propose to "return to London the same evening?"—*Punch*.

LONDON ORPHAN ASYLUM.—The half-yearly meeting of the above institution was held on Monday at the London Tavern.—Mr. Godding in the chair. The chairman said there was no formal report to lay before the present meeting, it being one mainly for the election of thirty-five children into the asylum, from a list of 165 candidates. It might, however, be interesting for the subscribers to know that seventy-eight orphans had been received into the asylum during the past twelve months; that 423 orphans were at the present time in the asylum; and that 339 had been benefited by the charity since its formation. The foundation-stone of the new asylum will be laid in the course of the present summer. Some formal business having been transacted, the election was then proceeded with.

THE MOORS.—On the vast range of moors stretching in a direct line from Sheffield to within a few miles of Manchester, embracing the high grounds of North Derbyshire, and Cheshire, and Yorkshire, the prospect of sport, so far as grouse-shooting is concerned, is more cheering than it has been for the last three years. Owing to the disease which destroyed so large a number of birds two years ago, the owners of the principal moors either did not shoot over them last year or only partially so, and the result is seen in the prospect of some capital sport for the coming 12th of August. At Boardhill Flatts, on the grounds of Sir Lionel Pilkington, the birds are not only numerous, but are, so far, very strong on the wing. Last year Mr. Stanhope shot very little over his extensive moors at Dunford, and his doing so has ensured for this season a good stock of birds, the coveys being not only forward, but numerically large. On the grounds of Lord Howard, Mr. Tollemache, and others in the "three counties" there are plenty of birds, the keepers asserting that they scarcely ever saw more eggs in the nests than during the present season, fourteen and fifteen being found in many of them. In the neighbourhood of Glossop there appears to be a good many coveys. Several pairs of partridges have also been seen on the moors, which speaks well for the genial character of the weather for breeding. At Hazlehead, Holmfirth, Midhope, and Bradford the reports are in every way cheering as to the number and condition of the grouse. From the keepers on many of the inclosed estates, including Earl Fitzwilliam's, Lord Wharncliffe's, and others, it is reported that partridge-shooting promises to be very good, as the hatching time, from about the 20th to the 25th inst., has been in every way favourable.

THE VICEROY OF EGYPT.—About 600 invitations were issued to a breakfast given by her Majesty, on Monday afternoon, in the gardens of Buckingham Palace, to his Highness the Viceroy. The Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince and Princess Christian, Prince Arthur, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince and Princess Teck, the Viceroy of Egypt, and Princes Hassan Pacha, Ibrahim Pacha, and Toussoun Pacha arrived shortly after half-past four o'clock, and were received at the garden entrance of the palace by the Vice-Chamberlain, and conducted to her Majesty's tent, near the ornamental water. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Louisa, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice, entered the gardens soon after five o'clock, and proceeded to her Majesty's tent. Refreshments were served in tents upon the ground. The bands of the 1st Life Guards and Coldstream Guards played alternately during the breakfast, and her Majesty's private band, the Tyrolese singers, and the Swedish quartet singers were also in attendance. The Royal body guard of the Yeomen of the Guard was on duty in the grand hall of the palace, and a guard of honour of the Coldstream Guards was stationed in the court of the palace. The Viceroy of Egypt went to the Crystal Palace on Tuesday, and was "the observed of all observers" in a crowd of visitors far exceeding any which have been recorded this season. It is true that, beside the Viceroy, the attractions comprised a grand orchestral performance, under the direction of Sir M. Costa, the great fountains playing, and fireworks and illuminations of the most superb character. The Prince and Princess of Wales were present, and the company was vast and enthusiastic.—The Viceroy, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Sutherland, on Wednesday inspected the fire brigade in the gardens of Buckingham Palace. Eighteen of the largest steam fire engines, one manual engine, two fire-escapes, and nearly a hundred firemen in full uniform, were on the ground. The engines and the fire-escapes were tested in every way to the entire satisfaction of the Viceroy, who complimented Captain Shaw very highly on the excellence of all his arrangements and the efficiency of his men. Later in the day his Highness paid a visit to the Archbishop of Canterbury.—The Viceroy and retinue left Buckingham Palace on Thursday, and proceeded by railway to Dover, en route for Brussels and Germany.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held, at its house, John-street, Adelphi.—His Grace the Duke of Northumberland in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, £7 6s. were voted to pay the expenses of the life-boat Caroline, at North Berwick, N.B., in putting off, on June 15, in a gale from N.E. and heavy sea, and saving the crew of eight men of the brig J. C. Howitz, of Rostock, which was wrecked on Powit Rocks, off North Berwick Harbour. The crew of the life-boat were reported to have behaved with great gallantry on the occasion. £7 17s. were also granted to the crew of the Sheffield life-boat, stationed at Runswick, Yorkshire, for saving four persons from the fishing-coble Mary, of Hartlepool, which was in distress and likely to run on the Kettleness reefs, during a north-easterly gale, on June 16. The life-boat also assisted to save two other fishing-boats which were in dangerous positions in Runswick Bay. Rewards to the amount of £25 14s. 6d. were also voted to the crews of the life-boats at Scarborough, Rhyl, Brightstone Grange, and North Berwick for different services on the occasion of vessels being in distress during the gales of the past month. £4 10s. were granted to three warders and six convicts at the Spike Island convict establishment, in the county of Cork, for going off, during stormy weather, and saving two out of five men whose boat had been capsized near Spike Island. The men were much exhausted when they were rescued. The six convicts were granted a free pardon by Government in consideration of their meritorious services on the occasion. Various other rewards were granted to the crews of shore-boats for saving life on our coasts. Payments amounting to upwards of £1000 were also ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. The late Captain W. Julian, of Aberystwyth, had bequeathed the institution £50. He had been for many years a member of the committee of the Aberystwyth branch of the society. A new life-boat had been sent to Southend, Argyleshire, where a most efficient and commodious house had been prepared for its reception. The boat was publicly launched at its station, on the 21st ult., under the superintendence of the assistant inspector of life-boats to the institution. Robert Ker, Esq., of Auchincruith, N.B., and members of his family, had presented the boat to the society, along with a sum of money to endow it, in memory of Mr. Ker's eldest son, who was, unhappily, drowned on the coast of Argyleshire. A report was read from Captain Ward, R.N., the inspector of life-boats, on his recent visit to various life-boat stations on the Welsh coast. The proceedings then terminated.

The Emperor was at an agricultural exhibition at Beauvais on Sunday, and, in reply to an address from the Mayor, as appears from an official report, his Majesty declared that the progress made in agriculture and manufactures was mainly due to the good order maintained during the last seventeen years, which good order would assuredly never be disturbed. In another speech the Emperor told the Bishop of Beauvais that he always deferentially received the addresses of bishops, because they contained expressions of piety, and called holy doctrines to mind. Should his prayers be heard, religion would be held in honour, the people happy, and France great and prosperous.

The newly-elected Legislative Body assembled for the first time on Monday. M. Rouher, Minister of State, read the following statement:—"The present extraordinary Session was necessary in order to hasten the verification of the elections, and thus put an end to all uncertainty respecting the validity of the electoral proceedings. According to the Government's intentions, the present Session has no other object. The reconstitution of the Legislative Body by the process of universal suffrage is a natural opportunity for the nation to manifest its thoughts, its wants, and its aspirations. But the examination of the political results of this manifestation on the part of the people should not be precipitate. At the ordinary Session the Government will submit to the high consideration of the public bodies the resolutions and projects which seem to it the most calculated to realise the wishes of the country."

Baron Jerome David, Vice-President of the Chamber, having recently been made grand officer of the Legion of Honour, M. Schneider, the President, resigned. He has since withdrawn his resignation, however, on receiving explanations from the Emperor. His Majesty, in the letter in which these explanations are given, states that his policy will continue to be, as before, to reconcile "the existence of a strong power with that of sincerely liberal institutions."

The press prosecutions have commenced. M. Henri Rochefort, who has already several unexecuted sentences recorded against him, is now condemned, in his absence, to three years' imprisonment, 10,000f. fine, and the forfeiture for three years of all civil rights, including his eligibility to sit in the Legislative Chamber. Writers in the *Siecle*, the *Electeur Libre*, and the *Opinion Nationale* have also been sentenced to various terms of fine and imprisonment.

The Paris *Rappel*, which suddenly came to a standstill a fortnight ago because it could find no printer courageous enough to bring it out, has again reappeared. Henceforth it means to be its own printer. Several of its contributors are still in prison. One who has been released gives an account of his arrest and detention in Mazas, and states that to this day he has been unable to ascertain on what grounds he was deprived of his liberty. The *Rappel* denies that there was any plot or conspiracy against the Government.

ITALY.

The official gazette of Monday evening contains the following:—"The Parliamentary commission of inquiry into the affair of the tobacco convention, having heard the evidence of the deputies interested—namely, Signori Brenna, Fambri, and Civivini—and having examined the documents laid before it, has decided to reserve its opinion on the case until after further investigations have been instituted. It has also determined that the inquiry shall be prosecuted at the public sittings of the Chambers, which commence on July 1."

ROME.

In a secret Consistory held a few days ago for the purpose of creating fourteen Archbishops and Bishops, his Holiness deplored the new law adopted in Italy for subjecting clerical pupils to military conscription as being an infringement of the immunities, the rights, and the liberty of the Church. His Holiness dwelt upon the lamentable evils afflicting the Church in Austria and Hungary, and upon the just complaints of the Bishops of those countries. The events in Spain also gave cause for sadness and mourning. In Poland the Russian Government continued its persecutions, which had led to the exile of Catholic Bishops; still, the episcopal zeal, undaunted by those trials, was a source of consolation. His Holiness said, in conclusion, "Let us constantly consider how terrible will be the fate of his enemies. Let us constantly pray to the merciful Father to bring them back from the way of perdition to the paths of justice, and to crown the Church with fresh triumphs."

SPAIN.

The Cortes has approved the proposed reform of the tariff without modification. Articles 11 and 12 of the Budget will be modified. Immediately after the Budget is passed Señor Ardanaz will replace Señor Figuerola. At a meeting of the majority held on Tuesday morning a vote of confidence in General Prim and Admiral Topete was passed.

In Tuesday evening's sitting of the Cortes General Prim, replying to Señor Orense, declared that the Government would never think of attempting a coup-d'état, but would devote its endeavours towards consolidating liberty.

PRUSSIA.

The Prussian Association for the Relief of Wounded and Sick Soldiers in Time of War has offered a prize of £85 for the best essay upon the means of extending the operations of the society to maritime combatants. The authors are to base their conclusions upon the experience of former wars, especially those of recent date. No restrictions are placed on the arrangement or extent of the essay, and the language employed may be German, French, or English. The prize will be awarded on Sept. 30, 1870, the birthday of the Queen of Prussia.

SWITZERLAND.

The Paris *Temps* publishes a letter from Berne which states that negotiations have for some time been going on between France and Switzerland for the revision of the treaty respecting the extradition of criminals, and that some of these negotiations have just been satisfactorily concluded. A hitch has, however, occurred in connection with the subject of political offences. The Swiss federal Government will not consent to rank these with ordinary crimes, as the French Government desires, and there seems no prospect of any understanding being arrived at between the two Powers.

CUBA.

General Caballero de Rodas arrived at Havannah on Tuesday. Upon assuming the government, he immediately issued a proclamation in which he said that his policy was embraced in three words—"Spain, Justice, Morality!" He thanked the volunteers for their services and loyalty, and also thanked the army and navy.

Intelligence has reached New York that the insurgents had been victorious in several fights near Puerto Padre; but the most serious fact is the announcement that 800 men, under the command of Colonel Ryan, eluded the American authorities and sailed for Cuba on Saturday night. The Spanish Minister at Washington has informed the State Department that he shall demand his passports if any official interview be granted to the Cuban insurgent envoy. A telegram from New York, dated Wednesday, states that "two small steamers, carrying 300 men of Colonel Ryan's expedition, were captured last night in Long Island Sound by a revenue-steamer. The men have been lodged as prisoners in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. It is believed that the steamer containing the remainder of the expedition has been abandoned. Mr. Banks, member of Congress (U.S.), is strongly urging the recognition of the belligerent rights of the Cuban insurgents."

SOUTH AMERICA.

Intelligence from Montevideo announces that the financial question has given rise to a revolution. General Caraballo had raised the insurrectionary standard in the provinces.

Advices from Paraguay of May 14 report that the allies had marched into the interior. The garrison of Y Vilny had been surprised, and the Paraguayans were abandoning Patiho Cue. The following telegram has been received by the Brazilian Legation in London:—"Active military operations against Lopez. First corps d'armée, under Count d'Eu, considerably in advance of Luque. Second and third crossed R. Barroso and Villarica. Ibucy completely destroyed, and great number of prisoners; hundreds of Paraguayan families rescued. Lopez proposes insignificant conditions for leaving Paraguay. One English and two American officers allowed to cross allied army to communicate with Lopez. English officer not admitted by Lopez."

CHINA AND JAPAN.

A scientific expedition from Australia has arrived at Hong-Kong. The Imperialists had gained a signal victory over the Mohammedan rebels; 20,000 of the latter were killed. Advices from Japan state that further insults had been offered to foreigners, and disturbances were expected.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AND GALLANT RESCUE.—A case was heard at Worship-street, on Monday, in which the conduct of two witnesses was committed to the notice of the Royal Humane Society. A young woman had, a few nights ago, thrown herself into the canal at Upper Clapton, when a resident in one of the adjacent houses, named Maybury, left his bed, plunged into the water, and rescued her as she was about to sink for the third time. Another man, named Dorell, who had previously expostulated with the girl in vain whilst upon the banks, also rendered assistance. The magistrate warmly praised this joint action, and awarded each of them a small sum of money in recognition of such a service.

THE CHURCH IN JAMAICA.—A deputation, which included many Liberal members of the House of Commons, waited upon Earl Granville, on Wednesday, to represent the expediency of disestablishing the Church in Jamaica. It was stated that of a population of 450,000, only 40,000 belonged to the Church. The reply of the Colonial Secretary was to the effect that upon the general principle the Government agreed with the deputation, but they were not decided respecting the mode in which that principle should be applied. Any scheme would be favourably received by the Cabinet which aimed at the moral, intellectual, and religious culture of the subject race, without giving ascendancy to any particular class.

THE INDIAN MUSEUM.—The Secretary of State for India has, we believe, resolved to appropriate the ground between the India Office and Charles-street to the building of a new museum, library, and chart-office under one roof, from plans by Mr. Digby Wyatt. This improvement has long been needed to do full justice to the vast collection of treasures, both literary, natural, and artificial, that were never adequately displayed either at Leadenhall street or Fife's House. In particular a reading-room and a library are wanted. The collection of Oriental treasures is unrivalled, even at St. Petersburg, and yet they are at present heaped away like so much lumber, while the accommodation for students is the scantiest possible. —Standard.

THE GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.—Active preparations are being made by the Post-Office authorities to take up the telegraphic system of the kingdom under the Act of last Session. Various appointments have been made, and the persons so appointed are being instructed in telegraphy, both by means of connected instruments and "dummies." The different telegraphic instruments, including the Morse, at present used by the Electric and International Telegraph Company, Bright's acoustic instrument, used by the Magnetic Company, and Wheatstone's instrument, have been connected in the General Post Office, for the purpose of practically illustrating the working of each. It was stated some time since that Government had decided upon adopting either the Bright or the Morse system, but it has been rumoured recently that a preference will be given to the Wheatstone instrument. The premises devoted to the transactions of the telegraphic business of the Post Office will be situated in St. Martin's-le-Grand, at the corner of Newgate-street, where the old houses occupying the site are all but pulled down, and not in Covent Garden, as stated some time since.

FEARFUL NITRO-GLYCERINE EXPLOSION NEAR CARNARVON.—**GREAT DESTRUCTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY.**—A shipload of nitro-glycerine having arrived from Liverpool at Carnarvon bar, was conveyed in boats to Carnarvon pier. On Wednesday afternoon five cartloads were dispatched—two for Asheton Smith's Llanberis quarries and three for Lord Penrhyn's Bethesda quarries. At six p.m., whilst the former two were near Cywmglo, a terrible explosion took place. The horses and three men were blown to atoms. The cart-wheels and portions of the carts were thrown nearly a mile. An adjacent village, about a quarter of a mile distant, was greatly injured. Windows were blown out and great household damage done. At the spot where the carts were two round holes, 6 ft. deep and 7 ft. in diameter, were made. The railway station, forty yards off, was blown to pieces. The whole valley at the foot of Snowdon and two large lakes suffered tremendous shock. The damage done all round the valley was very great. The shock was felt at Carnarvon and Bangor, and for miles around. Portions of human remains were found forty yards off. Some quarrymen 300 yards off were severely injured. The greatest consternation prevailed. Thousands of persons congregated from neighbouring towns and villages at the scene of the accident. A cart-wheel was found fifty yards off, on rocks above the scene of the accident.

FRENCH ACTORS IN BUSINESS.—Alphonse Karr used to say that the best profession going was literature, provided a popular author carried on some other trade. French actors and actresses have accepted this dictum. Their theatrical earnings are the smallest part of the incomes of many of them. The farcical Levasseur is a book-seller; Vollet deals in ladies' underclothing and sells cuffs and collars to Worth's customers; Lacroix is a jeweller; Coulombier is at the head of a soup kitchen; Lemaire is a dramatic publisher; Lassonne is a dealer in *bric-a-brac*; and Berthelier's stays have a higher reputation than the famous corsets of Madame Vertu. Sarah Felix has an end of commercial iron in the fire; but her largest revenues are derived from an oyster park and some ponds where salmon are produced on the Côte principle. Carmouche speculated in a boarding-house, at Pierrefonds; and the capital on which he carried on his business was furnished by his wife, Jenny Vertpré.

NOW VASE IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—A noble addition has been made to the entrance-hall of the British Museum in the shape of a vase of great beauty and fine proportions, which was discovered in the course of excavations made just a hundred years ago in the villa of Hadrian at Palestrina. It is about ten feet in height, including its base, and probably dates from the early part of the second century of our era. It is described at length by Piranesi (vol. xiii.), who gave three separate views of it, and is inclined to think that it was the work of some of the sculptors whom Hadrian so often entertained at his villa between Rome and Tivoli, the ancient Tibur. The base, about three feet high, is ornamented with bulls' heads of bold design, intermixed with wreaths and cornucopias; from this rises an upright shaft, which supports the vase itself, and takes the shape of the stem of a pine; it is supported by three lion's claws; out of these claws above spring semi-figures of Seleni, in high relief, alternating with heads of fauns. Round the upper part of the vase itself we are presented with a series of scenes from the Italian wine-press, in which the prominent figures are satyrs, admirably grouped. Some of these are busy in gathering the grapes, others are heaping them in *canestri*, or baskets, while others, again are filling their goat skins with the juice and making off for their homes among the hills with their goat skins on their shoulders. The design is said by Piranesi to be unique in several of its features, and a very fine specimen both in its proportions and its several parts; and, indeed, he pronounces it *una delle meraviglie della scultura*. Underneath the lip of the vase are swallows, gracefully disposed upon a rope which passes over the heads of the fauns, and busily engaged in pecking at the grapes. The vase itself, in the last century, when Piranesi's book was written, appears to have belonged to a certain Mr. John Boyd, probably a Scotchman, though resident in England; but it was purchased only a few years since by the trustees of the Museum from a gentleman named Hugh Johnson, and until recently it was lying, in a sadly mutilated state, among the Halicarnassian and other marbles, under the unsightly sheds which still disfigure the façade of the Museum. It has been carefully restored, under the superintendence of the keeper of the Greek and Roman antiquities, the broken parts being re-jointed with copper fastenings.

THE ARTIFICIAL CULTIVATION OF OYSTERS.

THOSE who have given attention to this interesting branch of pisciculture have started several theories as to the conditions essential to the successful cultivation of oysters by artificial means. The tidal assimilation of the water as nearly as possible to the ocean currents is regarded by some as of absolute importance, while others contend for temperature and tranquillity; but as yet no really practical data have been obtained by actual observation. The oyster-growers of France were among the first to introduce ponds or tanks for retaining the "spat" or oysterlings; but it does not appear to have occurred to them that much valuable practical information might have resulted from placing the parent oyster in glass tanks for the purpose of watching the state of the water during what is imagined to be the "spawning" period, and at the same time endeavour to ascertain what really is the food of the oyster, which is at present a matter in dispute. The appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the condition of our oyster fisheries, which has now become a question of almost national

prompted Captain Ross, the chairman of the Brading Harbour (Isle of Wight) Oyster Fishery Company, after considerable scientific research, to commence a series of very interesting experiments at the company's grounds at Brading. To arrive at something like a conclusion as to the food of the oyster, a glass tank has been surmounted by two cisterns, from which there is a constant flow of filtered sea-water, the only vegetable matter in the tank beneath being a few selected specimens of seaweed; and another tank is similarly supplied with sea-water, as taken from the harbour, without filtration or purifying process of any kind—the object being to ascertain the difference in the structural changes of the oyster; and also, by a microscopical examination of the contents of its stomach, which is regarded as a most material point, to endeavour to solve the obscure question as to its means of subsistence. That which is known as "the heat and tranquillity theory," to which Mr. Frank Buckland attaches so much weight, is being tested by means of another large circular glass tank, the parent oyster being placed in chambers prepared for the purpose. As soon as it is ascertained that the fish is "sick," which is the technical term for the period immediately preceding the emission of the "spat," the water is left perfectly undisturbed, while the greatest care is taken that the temperature is maintained as nearly as possible at that uniform rate which professed oyster culturists believe to be indispensable to success. The minimum and maximum temperatures are recorded twice daily by means of thermometers, and other instruments peculiarly constructed, with long, sensitive tubes, &c., according to the designs of Captain Ross. Other tanks are kept in perfect darkness, as it is known that at great ocean depths some wonderful beds of oysters are often found. For some time past Captain Ross has also been conducting experiments to test the effect of passing currents of electricity through water containing infusoria of various kinds; and so marked has been the effect that experiments are now going on at Brading, under the personal supervision of the chairman, to try what effect a continuous current of electricity may have in accelerating the development and growth of the molecular atoms that are now being so largely deposited in the several breeding-ponds of the company. Of course the result of this experiment is purely speculative. The harbour at Brading is said to be admirably situated for all purposes of oyster breeding and cultivation, inasmuch as it is landlocked, and singularly free from those extraordinary changes of temperature that are met with in other parts of the English coast. As a proof of the breeding capabilities of the harbour, irrespective of any other protection, many specimens of native Brading oysters may now be seen, with several oysterlings attached to the shell; but this also shows that while some are thus obtained, the greater proportion may be, and undoubtedly is, carried out to the ocean during the time the "spat" is in what is known as "the floatsome state," and eventually deposited upon the ocean bed, there to form natural oyster-grounds. The result of these experiments will be attended with considerable interest, and it is to be hoped that those who can enjoy these esculent luxuries will have to thank this indefatigable gentleman for

having discovered the means whereby they can be so economically cultivated as to bring down their market value to something like the price at which they could be purchased a few years since.

THE NEW LAW COURTS.

SOME Parliamentary returns relative to "the battle of the sites" were issued on Monday. Mr. Henry A. Hunt, surveyor of her Majesty's works and public buildings, in his report to Mr. Layard (dated the 18th ult.) on the several proposed sites, maintains that a change of site will not involve delay in the carrying out of the scheme. One year must, in any event, be occupied in the preparations of the working drawings, and of the necessary calculations upon which builders are to form their estimates; and, whether the Carey-street or Embankment site be adopted, these preliminary proceedings will be the same. If the bill for acquiring the land should be passed this Session, the whole of the property can be purchased and the site cleared before the expiration of twelve months from the passing of the Act; but if the Act should not be passed this Session then, of course, delay would arise. Mr. Hunt appends a minute in which he endeavours to show that, although the notices to owners and occupiers were not given at the time prescribed by the Standing Orders, the course which he recommends, so far from being a harsh proceeding, would give honest claimants advantages which they have never yet possessed. As to the relative advantages of the two sites, in respect to light, air, and approaches, Mr. Hunt confidently states that the Embankment site has singular advantages. There is no reflector or ventilator equal to a broad, tidal river; and the road, railway, and footpath on the Embankment, and the line of steamers on the river, on the one side, and the four streets which open from the Strand to Howard-street, on the other, furnish ready-made approaches, without any additional cost beyond that involved in the widening of Essex-street, at least as good as those ordinarily obtained for new public buildings.

limitation to expenditure on the Carey-street site. Mr. Hunt ventures to say that this is no one-sided view of the question, and that a personal inspection of the site and its surroundings will prove that he has not overstated the case.

REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AT TURIN.

OUR Illustration is simply a record of the celebration at Turin of the anniversary of the Italian Constitution. It was a simple review of the National Guard by the Prince de Carignan; but that event was in itself more significant than any great demonstration in which troops would have had to take a repressive as well as a historic part. The people of the northern Italian capital are less given to wild displays of sudden emotion than their southern countrymen, and the review represented in our Engraving at once marked their sense of present security and their hope for the future of the Constitution.

THE ANT-EATING BEAR.

THIS latest acquisition of the Zoological Society of London, purchased of Mr. E. L. Blake, on the 18th ult., for £150, is a native of the Cape Colony. It is a nocturnal animal, and therefore the only chance one can get of seeing it by day is at feeding-time. In default of ants, its natural sustenance, it is nourished with meat minced fine, to which food it seems to take very kindly. It is a powerfully-made beast, with a conformation well adapted to its peculiar habits. It is between 4 ft. and 5 ft. long, is covered with short, bushy hair, has a well-developed chest, and has its forelegs furnished with strong, hooflike claws, which it uses with great rapidity in digging out and destroying the nests of the ant, and also in burrowing its own habitation.

As the first of the species that has ever been brought to this country alive, the ant-eating bear has a peculiar interest for the students of natural history.

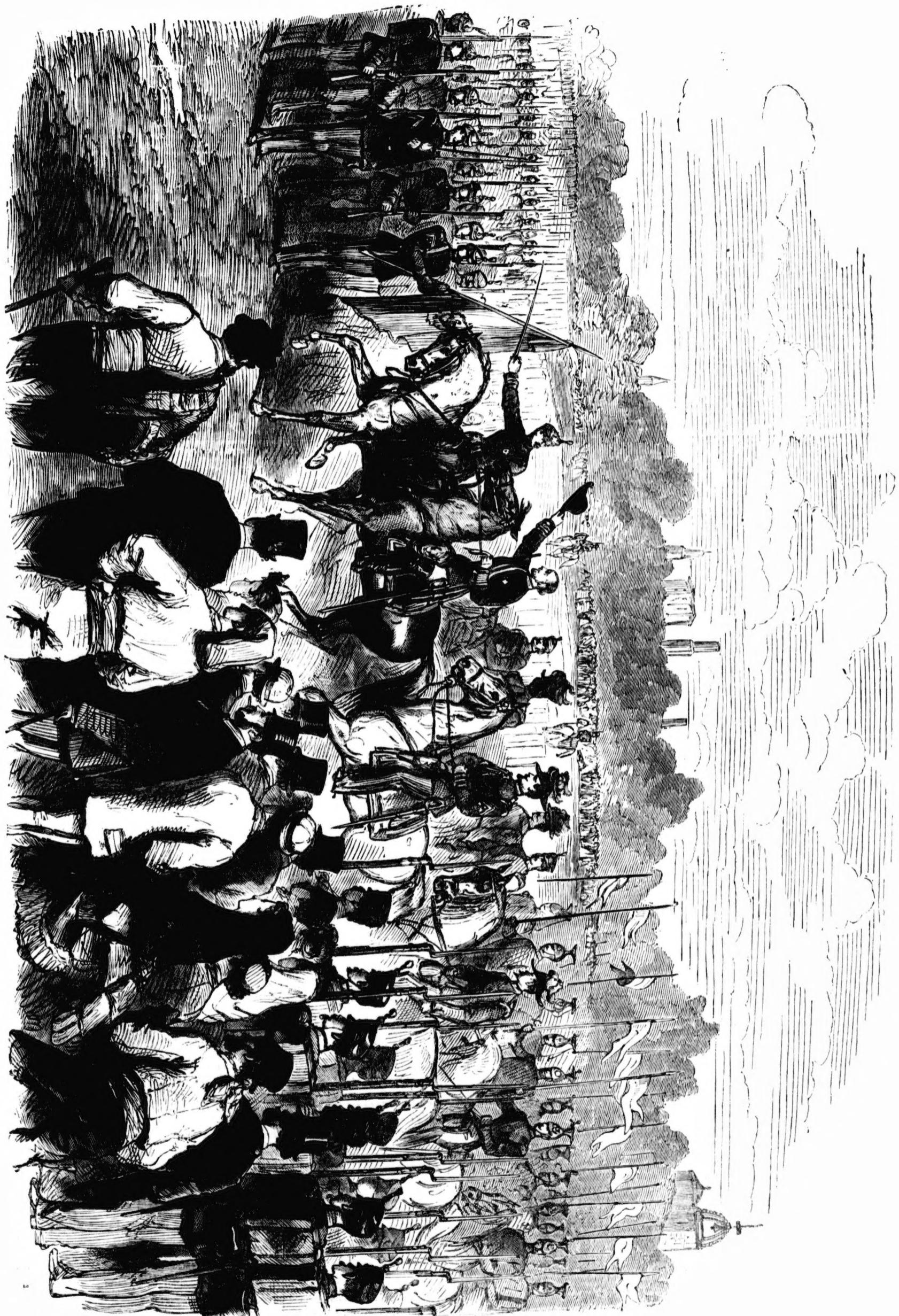


THE ANT-EATING BEAR IN THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S GARDENS, REGENT'S PARK.



REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF TURIN BY THE PRINCE OF CARIGNANO.

TROOPS TAKING THE OATH TO THE NEW SPANISH CONSTITUTION AT BARCELONA.



INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 359.

MR. CHARLES REED.

At the last general election Mr. Charles Reed stood for the new borough of Hackney, and as soon as the poll was opened he rushed to the head of it; and when the poll was closed it was found that no less than 14,785 votes had been recorded for Mr. Charles Reed, whilst Mr. John Holmes polled 12,243, and Mr. Salisbury Butler—"Neighbour Butler," as his placards called him—member for the Tower Hamlets in the last Parliament, and thought to be invincible in those regions, polled only 6825. "Who, then, is Mr. Charles Reed? He must be a very popular man, or very rich, to achieve such a victory as this," many may have said, and probably many did say. Well, of Mr. Reed's wealth we know nothing; but, whatever that may be, that he did not mount to the top of the poll by a golden ladder is certain. "Then it was his popularity that carried him up; and yet until we saw the return we never heard of him." Very likely. It is quite possible that a man may be well known and popular in the City and regions contiguous thereto whose name is scarcely known west of Charing-cross. Then, again, Mr. Charles Reed is a Dissenter; and between Dissent and the fashionable world and what is called "society" there has always been a wide gulf. Sometimes, though, a Dissenter conquers a world-wide fame. John Bright, for example, is a Dissenter; and yet there is not an educated man in all Europe and in America who has not heard the name of John Bright. And here we may say that, though Charles Reed has hitherto not been extensively known outside a certain circle, his father's name was known far and wide, for Charles Reed is the son of Dr. Andrew Reed, the founder of some half dozen orphan and other asylums. But, though the Doctor too was a Dissenter—a Dissenting minister—thousands of Churchmen knew him, and aided him in his philanthropic work, and peers and peeresses, and even Royal Princes, did him honour. The truth is, that the Dissenting leaders, as a rule, are not known beyond their own circles, because they confine themselves and their operations and their charities too much within those circles. Dr. Reed's charity scorned these narrow limits, and transcended all sectarian and party differences and predilections. He did not narrow his mind, nor to party give up what was meant for mankind; and, as we shall see, his son is walking in his father's steps, and will perhaps soon be as well known.

HIS DEBUT AND VICTORY.

Mr. Charles Reed was born in 1819, and is, therefore, exactly fifty years old. He was educated at the London University. In 1846 he married Margaret, the youngest daughter of the late Edward Baines, M.P., and the sister of the late Right Hon. M. F. Baines, M.P., and of Edward Baines, the member for Leeds. Mr. Reed was once a printer; he is now senior partner in the firm of Reed and Fox, typefounders. Mr. Reed has long been known in his circle as a good speaker, and, no doubt, some of his ardent, sanguine friends expected that, as soon as he got into Parliament, he would be upon his legs. But Mr. Reed is a wise man. He knew that the House of Commons is a very different arena to the council-chamber, the vestry, a private meeting, &c.; and so he determined to bide his time, and meanwhile to study the manners and customs and forms of the House, and to get, if we may so say, accustomed to the place. Many tempting opportunities arose, which to a less self-possessed man would have proved irresistible; but he resisted all temptations. When Mr. Maguire brought forward the question of the management of the London Corporation's Irish estates, we confidently expected that Mr. Reed, as "representative of the Corporation of London for the Irish estates in Ulster," would then make his débüt. But, though he could have said much upon the subject, he was silent; and it was not until June 16 that he stood up to make a set speech. The occasion was this: Mr. Reed is characteristically a zealous supporter of Sunday and ragged schools, and some weeks ago he brought in a bill to exempt these institutions from local rates; and on that Wednesday, the 16th, he moved that it be read the second time. It was rather an unfortunate hour for a débutant to rise; it was past four o'clock. On Wednesdays the House rises at six. He had much to say and only a short time in which to say it. He was naturally anxious to prove his case; but if he made a long speech the bill would be certainly talked out. Moreover, the House was become restless and uneasy, as it always is at the close of these morning sittings, when, as in this case, a division is expected. The consequence of all this was that Mr. Reed was too rapid and hurried, and his voice was pitched in too high a key. He was rapid, because he felt that he had much to say in a short time. He strained his voice probably because he was conscious of a buzzing around him. Nevertheless, it was a good speech, and Mr. Reed proved that he has all the elements of a good speaker. We, indeed, venture to predict that under more favourable circumstances, with plenty of time before him and a quiet House, Mr. Reed will be an efficacious speaker. You see, readers, these gentlemen—four-fifths of them—had been away all the morning; some few in Committee upstairs; many more lounging at Tattersalls' or the clubs, or riding in the parks; and had come down not to listen to speeches, but to divide; and naturally they wanted to get the division over, that they might go away again to their pleasures. Hence their restlessness. The Government objects to this bill; and certainly the policy of exemption is questionable. But Mr. Reed carried the second reading by 228 to 71, thus beating the Government by 3 to 1. It was a case of hearts versus heads, feeling against logic. "It is a shame to tax these ragged and Sunday schools," said Mr. Reed. "It is a shame!" echoed the House. And reason and State policy were cowed into silence for a time. Did ever débutant achieve such a victory as this? Never in our time.

HIS BILL IN COMMITTEE.

But all this happened a fortnight ago, why go back to pick up an incident so old? It is a plausible question; but the answer is at hand. Last Saturday morning, an hour after midnight, Mr. Reed was again upon the stage to forward his work a step. He had carried the principle of his bill triumphantly. He had now to push it through Committee; and, though the night was far spent, and the eastern horizon was streaked with morning light, quite 200 members were present. Mr. Reed, when the time came, moved that the Speaker do now leave the chair. Some men whom we know would have made a speech on the occasion. Some men never neglect to make a speech when they have a chance. Some men, indeed, seem to be more anxious to make speeches about their measures than to carry them. Mr. Reed has not sat silent in the House so many months for nothing. He has learned what many members never learn—viz., that the way to defeat a measure is to indulge in superfluous talk about it; and so Mr. Reed, when the bill was called, silently lifted his hat, and the bill speedily got into Committee. Not immediately, though, for Mr. Cranford, the member for Ayr, moved that the House do go into Committee that day three months; but the poor man could find no seconder, and consequently the motion fell to the ground. The bill then got into Committee. But it soon became evident that it would not have a prosperous but a stormy voyage, and doubtful whether it would reach port that night, albeit its supporters were numerous, zealous, determined, and disposed to be noisy. Her Majesty's Government, having been so soundly defeated, could no longer fight against the principle of the bill. "But cannot we modify it; take the sting out of it? We will try." The bill proposes to enact that all Sunday and ragged schools shall by law be exempt. Mr. Pease, of South Durham, who sat with his knees in the back of the Prime Minister, rose and proposed that parishes, &c., should have the power to exempt those schools from rates. Was he a volunteer or was he put up to move this amendment? More likely he had a hint, and on that hint spoke. Murmurs of disapprobation, which grew into noisy demonstrations, came from all parts of the House, but especially from the Conservatives, whilst Mr. Pease was speaking. Were the Conservatives, then, so very anxious to pass this bill, that they were so clamorous? Doubtful this, we think. To us who watched the scene it appeared that there was a bitterness in their demonstration which mere zeal for the bill would.

not wholly account for. They probably liked the bill; but it was, we suspect, a desire "to have a dig at Gladstone," as the phrase is, which prompted them to stop so late. "Digging at Gladstone" is delightful to the Conservative heart. Mr. Ward Hunt, though, calmly supported the amendment. He is too high-minded a gentleman to sacrifice his opinions merely to have a dig at Gladstone. After a few words from Mr. Serjeant Simon in opposition to the amendment, Mr. Gladstone rises. He is, you see, in full dress-tailed-coat, tight black pantaloons tied at the ankles, which antique continuations do not become him, for Mr. Gladstone has not very good legs, if he did but know it. He argues, amidst expressions of discontent, strongly in favour of "his honourable friend's" amendment, and earnestly presses his hon. friend, the member for Hackney, to adopt it; and, to say the truth, his reasoning was—if members would consult their heads as well as their hearts—as it appears to us, incontrovertible.

AN INTERLUDE.

After much proing, and coning, and noise, there came this little interlude:—Old Mr. Henley—"Old Henley," as he is familiarly called—who is seventy-six years old, but is still hale and tough, got up, and said, in his characteristic vernacular, that this amendment is an attempt to fritter away the bill—"a move," in fact, to get rid of the decision of the House. Whereupon Gladstone had to rise again, and, rather roughly, to rub the old gentleman down. When he was appealing to Mr. Reed the Prime Minister was bland, persuasive, and complimentary; but this charge of attempting to fritter away the bill and get rid of the decision of the House by a "move" had, as we say, put his back up. It was curious to see "Old Henley's" countenance, whilst he was thus being rubbed down—"towelled," as a humorous member called it. The hon. gentleman has a handsome face, for an old man; and generally, though the lines of it are marked and strong, it is placid and good-natured; but, as Gladstone was laying it on, the lips were compressed, and a dark, angry shadow came over the countenance. Good old gentleman! perhaps it was rather too bad to rub him so hard. But then, "fritter away" and "move" are not pleasant words.

HOW THE BUSINESS ENDED.

But whilst all this and much more was going on, and the hand of the clock was creeping to two, what was Mr. Reed doing? Well, he was pondering, consulting his friends, and questioning his own mind what was best to be done. He was somewhat in a strait. He had no wish "to dig at Gladstone," nor to encourage others to do it. The cheers of the Conservatives were an offence to him. Perhaps, indeed, those cheers, instead of encouraging him, made him pause and consider his position. He had to ask himself how he could best ensure success to his bill. At last clever Mr. Ayrton put the amendment in a somewhat improved form, and then Mr. Reed half consented. But he must have time to consider; and so to give him time the Chairman reported progress, and thus the scene ended—scene not depicted in the papers, and therefore described here as a little bit of inner life that could not have been, but for our description of it, discerned by the public. As to Mr. Reed, we may say that he has, apart from the ability of his speech on the second reading, shown more wisdom, tact, self-possession, and reticence (a most valuable quality) than many more experienced men display. He is one of those valuable members who come here to do solid work, and not to make flowery speeches, as, unhappily, many do.

SMALL TALK ON SMALL THINGS.

We have, at last, broken ground on the Civil Service Estimates. We passed all the money votes for the Army and Navy some time ago. On Monday night we took in hand Book 1—one out of seven books—of the Civil Service votes. A writer in the *Morning Star* called the proceedings of the night a "promiscuous grumble." It is a good phrase. Call the proceedings a promiscuous grumble about trifles, and the description will be complete. The elephant who can tear up a tree can also pick up pins. It was, on Monday night, picking up pins. Our Army Estimates amount to about £14,000,000, our Navy to about £11,000,000, the Civil Service to about £14,000,000; but there is generally ten times the talk—"jaw," as it is often irreverently called—about the Civil Service votes that there is about the Army and Navy. The cause is not far to seek. There are but few men in the House competent to talk about naval and military armaments, whilst every member can discuss—or thinks he can—these Civil Service votes. The question of how many ironclads and how many Armstrong guns we ought to have, is quite beyond the powers of Mr. Alderman Lusk and others like him, but how many tables and chairs the public offices shall have is quite in their way; and if they cannot understand fortifications, they can discuss the question of cleaning out a pond. The House was in Committee about five hours. It divided four times; it was passed six votes; and it saved the country the magnificent sum of £52 a year; and that was cut off not because the Committee was economically disposed, but to put certain proprietors of private roads at Roehampton in a fix. There is a gate there leading into Richmond Park. The roads to it are private property. The proprietors of them, by refusing to allow the public to use these roads, keep this gate to themselves. "Well, then," said Mr. Layard, Chief Commissioner of Works—whom the said proprietors had the audacity to stop—"we will dismiss the gatekeeper and close the gate." The £52 a year is the salary of the gatekeeper. Getting these six votes and chipping off this sum of £52 a year was the work done in the aforesaid five hours.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 25.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord REDESDALE said he intended to lay before the House a proposition for the omission of that part of the Irish Church Bill which would exclude from the House prelates of the Irish Church.

Lord Romilly withdrew his Religious Educational, &c., Societies Incorporation Bill; and the Diplomatic Salaries, &c., Bill was read the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIENDLY SOCIETY REPORTS.

Mr. W. LOWTHER asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the members of the friendly societies in England are not bound to send to the barrister appointed to certify the rules of savings banks every year a statement of their funds, and how many such returns were received in 1867 and 1868.

Mr. BRUCE replied that more than one half of the societies do not comply with the Act.

THE CORRUPT ELECTIONS COMMISSIONS.

Sir J. ELPHINSTONE asked whether the dates had been fixed at which the Commissioners appointed to inquire into corrupt practices at Beverley, Bridgewater, and Norwich are to commence their sittings.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL replied, that before the Commissioners commence their labours it will be necessary to adopt measures to ascertain the evidence that can be produced. He had been informed by the Commissioners that they did not think they would be able to report until the long vacation. He expressed his conviction that there would be no improper or unreasonable delay on the part of the Commissioners.

THE BANKRUPTCY BILL.

The House then proceeded to consider the Bankruptcy Bill, as amended. The other amendments to the bill were considered and agreed to, and the third reading was fixed for Monday next.

EDUCATION OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.

Mr. FAWCETT proceeded to call attention to the report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the condition of women and children employed in agriculture, and moved a resolution to the effect that the education of agricultural labourers is in general in so unsatisfactory a condition that immediate legislation upon the subject is imperatively demanded; that, therefore, the Government ought to legislate upon the subject during the next Session of Parliament.

The motion having been seconded by Lord F. CAVENDISH, a long debate ensued, and ultimately the motion was withdrawn.

MONDAY, JUNE 28.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1862, Amendment Bill was read the third time and passed.

The second reading of the Endowed Schools Bill from the Commons was moved by Earl DE GREY and RIPPON, who briefly explained its object and provisions. Lord NELSON supported the measure, whilst thinking that it hardly went far enough. On the other hand, the Bishop of ELY objected to that part of it which empowered the Commissioners to change the character of the governing body and to get rid of all obligations with respect to religious instruction. Eventually the bill passed the stage.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE TELEGRAPHHS.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON, in answer to questions by Mr. Grieve and Mr. Graham, said a bill would shortly be introduced to raise funds for the acquisition by the Government of the telegraphs, and that it would contain clauses securing a similar monopoly in the transmission of messages to that enjoyed by the Post Office in the conveyance of letters.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

Mr. GRANT DUFF, in reply to Sir C. Wingfield, said the Indian Budget would be presented at the end of July or the beginning of August.

AUDIT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

The Bankruptcy Bill having been read the third time and passed, the House went into Committee of Supply.

Mr. CANDLISH introduced the subject of the audit of public accounts, which he said, was very imperfect.

Mr. AYRTON admitted the occurrence of irregularities under the late Administration, and promised that the Government would prevent them in future.

Mr. WHITE thought that the Audit Department should be wholly disassociated from the Treasury, and be directly responsible to Parliament.

Mr. M'LAREN defended the auditors, and said it was impossible for them to do their duty unless they were furnished with the accounts.

Mr. GLADSTONE regretted the absence of members of the late Government, and remarked upon the difficulties of the question. He pointed out that the present system of accounts had only been recently initiated, and claimed indulgence until a sufficient time had elapsed for it to be brought to perfection. He agreed with the member for Brighton that audit business ought not to be transacted through the Treasury, and concluded with the remark that the Government would heartily co-operate in anything that could be done in furtherance of the principle that not only should the House be responsible for the inception of public expenditure, but that it should follow all money raised by taxation until the appropriation is complete, and investigate the expenditure.

The House subsequently took up the Civil Service Estimates, when several votes were passed after criticism; and one for £52, for salary and clothing for the keeper of a gate at Richmond Park, which proprietors in the neighbourhood refuse to allow the public to pass through, was expunged.

IMPORTATION OF SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS INTO QUEENSLAND.

Mr. P. A TAYLOR called attention to the reported importation of South Sea Islanders into Queensland. He supported his statements by references to despatches of persons high in authority, and to the opinions of eyewitnesses of the cruel treatment to which the poor islanders were subjected. He concluded with a request that any correspondence on the subject might be laid upon the table.

Mr. MONSELL admitted there was a tendency towards the revival of the slave trade in connection with these islands, but he controverted some of the statements made by Mr. Taylor. The whole question had been seriously considered by her Majesty's Government, and he was of opinion that the protection of the natives would be perfectly provided for by the amendment of some evils known to exist and in course of removal. He did not think, therefore, that emigration should be altogether prohibited.

After some further discussion, the subject dropped.

TUESDAY, JUNE 29.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

The House went into Committee on the Irish Church Bill, on the motion of Earl GRANVILLE, who announced that the Queen had placed at the disposal of Parliament her interest in the temporalities of the Irish Church. On the question that the preamble be postponed,

Lord GRAY contended that it would be convenient to discuss the preamble before proceeding to the clauses of the bill. He strongly advocated the concurrent system of endowment, and met the objections of those who argued that it was the faith of the great body of the people of Ireland, and of the majority of Christians in the world.

Lord GRANVILLE opposed the proposition, mainly on the ground that it was undesirable for the House to destroy one of the great principles of the bill before discussing its details.

The Bishops of OXFORD and ST. DAVID'S both spoke in favour of the concurrent endowment, the former explaining that an accident of debate prevented him from speaking on the second reading, and that if he had spoken he should have voted with the majority.

Lord CAIRNS gave reasons against the course proposed by Lord Grey, and Lord RUSSELL followed on the same side.

Lord DALHOUSIE defended the Free Church of Scotland against the strictures of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who, after an explanation, said that at the proper time he should be prepared to support either the amendments of Duke of Cleveland or those of Lord Grey. In the subsequent discussion Lords Kimberley, Bandon, and Westbury, the Duke of Rutland, and Lord Salisbury took part. The latter, like the majority of the speakers, supported the concurrent endowment scheme. Lord GREY, yielding to the general expression of opinion, withdrew his proposition. Their Lordships then proceeded with the clauses. The first clause was passed. On the second clause, the Archbishop of CANTERBURY moved an amendment to insert 1872 for 1871 throughout the bill; which, after a short conversation, was carried on a division by 130 to 74. Their Lordships then proceeded to discuss the other provisions of the clause, and several amendments were proposed, and some of them adopted, and then the clause passed as amended.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House had a morning sitting, during which several amendments on the Imprisonment for Debt Bill were negatived, and the third reading of the bill was fixed for Thursday, after clause 23 had been struck out, on the proposal of the Attorney-General.

On the order of the day for the House resolving itself into Committee on the University Tests Bill, Mr. Bentinck moved an amendment that the bill be committed that day three months, on the ground that before the House proceeded to consider the bill it ought to have some statement of the opinions of the Ministry with regard to the maintenance of the Established Church in this country. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Henley. A discussion ensued, in which Mr. Campbell, Mr. B. Hope, Mr. W. H. Gladstone (member for Whitchurch), Mr. Walpole, and Mr. Newdegate took part, and ultimately the amendment was withdrawn. The House then went into Committee on the bill, but very little progress was made with its clauses during the short time that remained of the afternoon sitting.

At the evening sitting, Mr. G. Moore called the attention of the House to the case of prisoners still confined for political offences, and other motions of no special interest were subsequently taken.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. EYKYN put a question to the Home Secretary upon the subject of the Overend and Gurney prosecution; but all the information which he obtained from Mr. Bruce was that the Government have no intention to interfere in the matter or to afford any assistance to Dr. Thom.

The adjourned debate upon Mr. Pell's resolution in favour of the substitution of a quinquennial for an annual collection of agricultural statistics, after lasting about a couple of hours and eliciting many expressions of opinion in favour of maintaining the existing system, resulted in the withdrawal of the motion.

the Commissioners under the Act, the Earl of BANDON moved the omission of the words "passing of the Act," for the purpose of substituting "Jan. 1, 1872." Earl GRANVILLE opposed the amendment, which was negatived, and the clause was agreed to.

Upon clause 12, which provided that the Church property should be vested in the Commissioners under the Act on Jan. 1, 1871, the Archbishop of CANTERBURY proposed that the date should be "1872." Lord CAIRNS suggested that the date "1872" should be inserted in the bill throughout; and, if necessary, that it should be altered on bringing up the report. Earl GRANVILLE assented to that course. After a brief conversation "1872" was inserted instead of "1871." Lord CAIRNS then proposed an addition to the clause to the effect that it should apply to the case of property subject to the rights of renewal of tenants' leases conferred on the tenants of lands belonging to sees suppressed by the 3 and 4 Will. IV., c. 37, and thereby vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of Ireland. After some discussion, the amendment was accepted by the Government, and the clause was agreed to.

On clause 13, the Earl of CLANCARTY moved an addition to the clause to provide that every present Archbishop and Bishop of the Irish Church should continue to enjoy during his life the privilege of being summoned to sit in the House of Lords. After some discussion, Earl GRANVILLE said that, as the majority of their Lordships were in favour of the proposal that the Irish Bishops should retain the privilege of sitting in the House of Lords, the Government would not press their objection, and a clause should be framed on the subject.

Clauses 14, after a lengthened discussion, in the course of which several verbal amendments were agreed to, was then added to the bill; as were also clauses 15 (giving compensation to curates), 16, 17, and 18.

Clauses 19 to 22 inclusive were postponed.

On clause 23 (which provides for the redemption and life interest of ecclesiastical persons), the Earl of CARNARVON moved an amendment fixing fourteen years' purchase as the value of such life interests. The amendment was ultimately carried by a majority of 69.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. COGAN asked the President of the Poor-Law Board whether it was true that five Roman Catholic children at the St. Marylebone Workhouse School had been struck off the roll as Catholics and entered as Protestants. Mr. GOSCHEN said that the statement was not literally true, but it was true that, until two years ago, the children were nominally Roman Catholics. The Roman Catholic priest visited them twice for the purpose of teaching them that religion, but they objected, and had since been taught the tenets of the Church of England; and, as they were fourteen years of age, they were surely old enough to judge for themselves.

In reply to Mr. Andrew Johnstone respecting diseased cattle in the Metropolitan Cattle Market, Mr. FORSTER said that the present state of the law was such that no inspection could take place for this disease after landing at the port.

THE DUBLIN FREEMEN INQUIRY BILL.

The adjourned debate on this subject was resumed by Mr. LOWTHER, who condemned the measure of the Government as a piece of exceptional legislation.

Mr. H. JAMES defended the bill, as it gave the Commissioners power for further inquiry into the corrupt practices which had taken place.

Mr. COLLINS spoke in favour of the bill, and said he should advocate its extension to Youghal.

Mr. SHERLOCK also supported the measure.

Mr. BOURKE said the bill was directed solely against those freemen who opposed the policy of the present Government. It was, in fact, brought forward to abolish the Protestant portion of the Dublin constituency.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL denied that the bill was to be directed to the object specified by Mr. Bourke, the real object of the bill was to disfranchise not Protestant but corrupt voters.

More discussion followed, but the impatience of the House was so marked that a division was taken, and the bill was brought in and read the first time by 239 to 136.

ACCOMMODATION OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A discussion took place on the question of affording more accommodation to members and the ladies and to the reporters.

Mr. GLADSTONE expressed himself generally in favour of affording more accommodation where practicable.

ADULTERATION OF CATTLE FOOD.

Lord ELCHO called attention to the adulteration of feed stuffs, and moved that the attention of the Board of Trade be called to the subject. After considerable discussion, the motion was negatived.

THE OVEREND, GURNEY, AND CO. PROSECUTION,

Mr. EYKYN moved that the prosecution in this case was of such national importance that the Government ought to bear the burden. This was repudiated on the part of the Ministry; and, after a lengthened discussion, the motion was negatived without a division.

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SATURDAY, JULY 3, 1869.

JESTING LOGIC.

AN evening contemporary, using the pen of a very able writer, who is well known (as to his characteristics and aims, at least, if not by name) to journalists and men of letters, has just issued an argument, founded upon the speech of Earl Grey upon the Voluntary Principle, which has rather an equivocal look with it. If it were not pretty certain that propagandists of the greatest power and intelligence often throw up straws in order to ascertain which way the wind blows, one might fancy this article was written in pure irony. With the main argument we shall not here meddle; but the practical conclusion drawn from it by the author is this:—"So long as mankind do, after the fullest consideration of the subject, hold views of religion which irreconcilably conflict with each other, no course is open to the lay world, as represented by the Legislature, except that of holding aloof, and letting the parties interested in the controversy fight it out as well as they can." This the article very properly terms a "shabby" view. But, rejecting the *tertium quid* which about half the intelligent portion of civilised mankind think inevitable, our contemporary launches out into the following bit of pleasantry:—

"When it is finally settled, when men have come tacitly to an agreement as to what is the truth upon these matters, that tacit agreement will infallibly be adopted and acted upon by the Legislature. . . . When a working majority of mankind or of any one nation has, upon such grounds, adopted a real religion, it will gradually become what the various forms of Established Churches of Christendom have been in past times—the moral tutor of the State; but, so long as our present controversies last, we shall have the voluntary system."

When "men have come tacitly to an agreement," as to what constitutes religious truth susceptible of being dogmatically embodied and taught (for this condition is insisted upon by our contemporary), no doubt the Legislature will

"act upon" that agreement. But, "Base man!" as the servant said to Joseph Andrews, "do you treat me with ironing?" In spite of all the talk, at once inane and incoherent, about the "unity of Christendom" and the fusion of religious opinions, it is boldly maintained by some of the best divines in the Church of England and elsewhere that unity of opinion is not even desirable in theological matters. But—which is more important—there is no indication whatever that the human intellect has entered, or ever will enter, upon a line of movement which can tend to unity of religious opinion. On the contrary, there is every sign that, with increased culture and increased differentiation of character—and, in spite of minor social conformities, there is a steady increase in both these particulars—there must come indefinitely increased diversity of opinion. It is quite obvious that the more you subtilise feeling and intellect, the more difficult you make it for any one human being to swallow whole the religious or moral formula of any other human being. And the more ease and convenience of life are increased, the more character and intelligence are left free to subtilise themselves. Whether at any time in the world's history—in the Middle Ages, for instance—there ever was a real working agreement upon theological questions, is another matter. We think not. It seems certain that orthodoxy, dissent, scepticism, and downright unbelief as to any form of religion (we are using, for brevity's sake, the readiest conventionalisms) were always concurrent powers in the world; and that, in proportion as liberty in general and civilisation in general have grown, these four elements have tended to shake themselves free from all connection with force other than moral. At all events, the irony of our contemporary's article is not lessened by the words with which it closes:—"Tacit agreements of this kind take place long before open agreements are even contemplated as possible." What is the "tacit agreement" to which civilised States seem likely to come upon this matter? Our able contemporary knows better than we do; and if this article is not a pilot-balloon it looks very much like one.

THE PARKS.

The ornamentation of our great parks and the cost of making them beautiful with flowers and otherwise, with the question whether London should pay wholly out of its own pocket for the care and beautification of the green spots which have been called its lungs—these matters have been before the House of Commons in the course of the week. Probably most people will be inclined to think that the criticisms passed upon the votes relating to the preservation and improvement of the parks were a little niggardly in spirit. Hyde Park, Battersea Park, and even the little suckling, Kennington Park, have been made so pretty that they are well worth a visit, considered merely as sights. Hyde Park, in particular, is gorgeous with grouped masses of colour; and it is no doubt true that provincial people form a large number of those who enjoy these places of resort. But it is more interesting to turn from these matters to the subject of the refreshment-house authorised by Mr. Layard inside Victoria Park for the sale of bread and meat; and, as he promises, wholesome beer, without spirits. Mr. Lusk chose to call this refreshment-house a "drunkery;" and there has been a great outcry by the teetotallers about it. They alleged what is true—namely, that the park is surrounded by public-houses, which constitute a sore temptation to the working people who visit the place. But Mr. Layard has the best of the argument, for to put a refreshment-house, where no spirits will be sold, inside the park itself, where disorder would not be allowed, perhaps scarcely thought of, is the very way to lessen the traffic of the beer-shops outside. It is the great inconvenience of the parks that they are so far from the places where the working people live. Thus the time which they can spend in them is limited; and to be able to go straight in and find within the precincts a place for refreshment and rest must be, to use the customary phrase, a great boon to them. The refreshment-rooms at South Kensington are now a somewhat stylish and expensive affair, but nobody can doubt that they formerly took away custom from public-houses and were a great convenience to visitors, while nobody ever heard of a case of drunkenness either there or at the Crystal Palace, or at the refreshment-rooms at the British Museum, or at the Zoological Gardens.

THE REVENUE.

	Quarter end. June 30, 1868.	Quarter end. June 30, 1869.	Year end. June 30, 1868.	Year end. June 30, 1869.	Year ended June 30, 1869.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs	5,453,000	5,515,000	22,604,000	22,486,000	..	118,000	
Excise	4,857,000	4,971,000	19,991,000	20,576,000	585,000	—	
Stamps	2,372,000	2,486,000	9,366,000	9,332,000	..	34,000	
Taxes	1,476,000	1,430,000	3,479,000	3,448,000	..	31,000	
Property Tax.	2,269,000	2,489,000	8,689,000	8,838,000	1,969,000	—	
Post Office	1,120,000	1,120,000	4,600,000	4,660,000	60,000	—	
Crown Lands	73,000	74,000	346,000	361,000	15,000	—	
Miscellaneous	664,003	762,044	2,847,297	3,454,032	606,735	—	
Total	18,284,603	18,847,044	70,102,297	73,155,032	3,235,735	183,000	
			Net Increase ..		3,052,735		

ANNIVERSARY OF THE QUEEN'S CORONATION.—Monday, being the thirty-first anniversary of her Majesty's Coronation Day, was observed with the usual celebrations. The Queen, accompanied by the Princesses Louisa and Beatrice and Prince Leopold, attended by General Seymour and Viscountess Clifden, arrived from Windsor at Paddington at about eleven o'clock, and drove to Buckingham Palace, where her Majesty had a garden party in the afternoon. At Woolwich, the day was observed as a strict holiday, all the Government establishments being closed. At noon a *feu de joie* was fired by the troops on the common, the Royal standard was hoisted at the Townhall and other flagstaff stations, and a Royal salute was fired from H.M. flagship *Fisgard*.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, with their Royal Highnesses Princesses Louisa and Beatrice and Prince Leopold, attended by the ladies and gentlemen of the suite, will, it is expected, leave Windsor Castle on Friday, the 9th inst., for Osborne. Their Royal Highnesses Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein and Princess Louisa will present the prizes to the successful competitors at the annual meeting of the Prince Consort's Windsor Association, which will be held in the Home Park, beneath the walls of the castle, on Monday next, the 5th inst.

THE DUCHESS OF ASTO was, on Tuesday, pronounced out of danger.

THE RIGHT HON. JOHN BRIGHT has appointed Mr. R. G. C. Hamilton, who for many years has been accountant to the Committee of the Privy Council on Education, to be accountant to the Board of Trade. Mr. Hamilton's late post is not yet filled up.

ADMIRAL SIR WILLIAM BOWLES, K.C.B., one of the Admirals of the Fleet, is in a very critical state of health, and little hope is said to be entertained of the venerable Admiral's recovery.

THE PRIME MINISTER has in very flattering terms communicated to Mr. Heron, the Town Clerk of Manchester, her Majesty's approval of his recommendation that the honour of knighthood should be conferred upon Mr. Heron, in recognition of his high character and position, and his long services to the community with which he has been immediately concerned.

THE NAVY CLUB entertained Mr. Childers at a banquet at Willis's Rooms on Saturday evening. The chair was taken by Admiral Sir H. Codrington, and most of the prominent members of the naval profession in London were present.

SIGNOR MAZZINI left Zurich on the 25th ult. He is coming to reside in London.

MR. EDMOND BEALES has come out as a preacher. He preached on Sunday night at the Burdett Hall, Limehouse, to a crowded audience from the text, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

THE FOLLOWING NOTICE has been put up at the entrance for outpatients at St. George's Hospital:—"The benefits of this institution being intended for the really poor only, persons not in that condition will be rejected."

THREE COLONIAL PRELATES were consecrated in Westminster Abbey on Tuesday. They were Dr. Cowie, Bishop of Auckland; the Rev. S. C. Marsden, Bishop of Bathurst (New South Wales); and the Rev. W. Chambers, Bishop of Labuan. The Archbishop of Canterbury was the officiating prelate.

LORD ROLLO, in the Peerage of Scotland, is gazetted a Baron of the United Kingdom, taking his title from Dunning and Pitcairns, in the county of Perth. His Lordship was a Scotch representative peer in the last Parliament, but through his support of the Suspensory Bill he was opposed in December last by the Earl of Kellie, and failed to secure re-election.

THE FOUNDATION-STONE of the Smithfield Martyrs' Memorial Church was laid on Tuesday afternoon by Lord Shaftesbury. The church is for the new district of St. Peter's, and is to be built in St. John-street-road.

A BOARD bearing the following notice in large letters has been placed at the foot of the stairs leading to the Strangers' Gallery in the House of Lords:—"Notice.—All demonstrations by strangers in the gallery are out of order, and must be treated accordingly.—By order, BLACK ROD." A similar notice has been placed at the top of the stairs.

THE AMOUNT AT THE CREDIT OF SAVINGS BANKS at the National Debt Office, on the 19th ult., was £49,869,833—viz., £37,106,031 belonging to Trustee Savings Banks and £12,763,862 belonging to Post-Office Savings Banks.

A NEW BAPTIST CHAPEL is in course of erection near Victoria Park, and on Tuesday afternoon the foundation-stone was laid in the presence of about 1000 persons by the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, who afterwards delivered a characteristic address, and was supported by many ministers of the Baptist and Independent denominations. The new chapel will be in the Italian style of architecture, capable of holding 800 persons, and the cost, including site, will be about £4500.

JAMES DUFFY, an Irishman, is in custody at Hull charged with having murdered his wife, in that town, last Saturday night. When he was infuriated with drink he pulled the poor woman out of bed and kicked her over the head, inflicting such injuries as caused her death.

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY ABBOTT'S, Kensington, is now being rapidly demolished; and on Monday evening last, although at this time the steeple was partly pulled down, some venturesome ringers ascended the belfry and rang out a final peal on the bells. Archdeacon Sinclair (the Vicar) uses the vestry-hall for Divine service.

SHERIFFS COTTON AND HUTTON entertained the Lord Chancellor and her Majesty's Judges at a banquet in Haberdashers' Hall last Saturday evening. The company numbered more than 200, and included the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Baron, Vice-Chancellor Stuart, and the Nawab of Bengal, who is stated to have responded to the toast of his health in "capital English."

THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COLONIAL SOCIETY was held, on Monday, at the institution of Civil Engineers—Lord Bury, M.P. in the chair. It was announced that her Majesty had been pleased to confer the title of "Royal" upon the society, which was congratulated by the chairman upon its favourable position and improving prospects. The receipts for the year amounted to £1588, and there is a balance in hand amounting to £44.

DR. THOM'S SOLICITORS,



RECEPTION OF THE VICEROY OF EGYPT BY M. HAUSSMAN AT HIS CHÂTEAU IN LONGCHAMPS.

RECEPTION OF THE VICEROY OF EGYPT
BY M. HAUSSMAN.

ALL the week we have been reading of fêtes, banquets, breakfasts, garden parties, and public demonstrations in honour of the distinguished guest who comes to pay us a return visit, after his recent display of splendid hospitality to our Prince and Princess. We publish this week an Engraving which shows the way in

which his Highness was welcomed in the French capital by that mighty prefect and builder of Paris, M. Haussman, who, in his villa at Longchamps, which is a kind of palatial country house, received the ruler of Egypt quite *en famille*. There were none of the usual party invited to dinner; no court etiquette was observed; not a symptom of the general Tuilleries banquets appeared. Amidst the flowers and trees, and with as much rustic simplicity as could possibly be expected in the autocrat of Paris, the Viceroy, with

his son, Hussein Pacha, with Nubar Pacha, General Ratib Pacha, and others of his suite, was acknowledged as an honoured guest. A quiet, elegant little dinner, during which his Highness complimented the Prefect on the great works he had effected in the capital; a little improvised music, hardly to be called a concert, in the evening; altogether, a charming, simple, mutual encouragement and recognition of two great men, both potentates in their way.



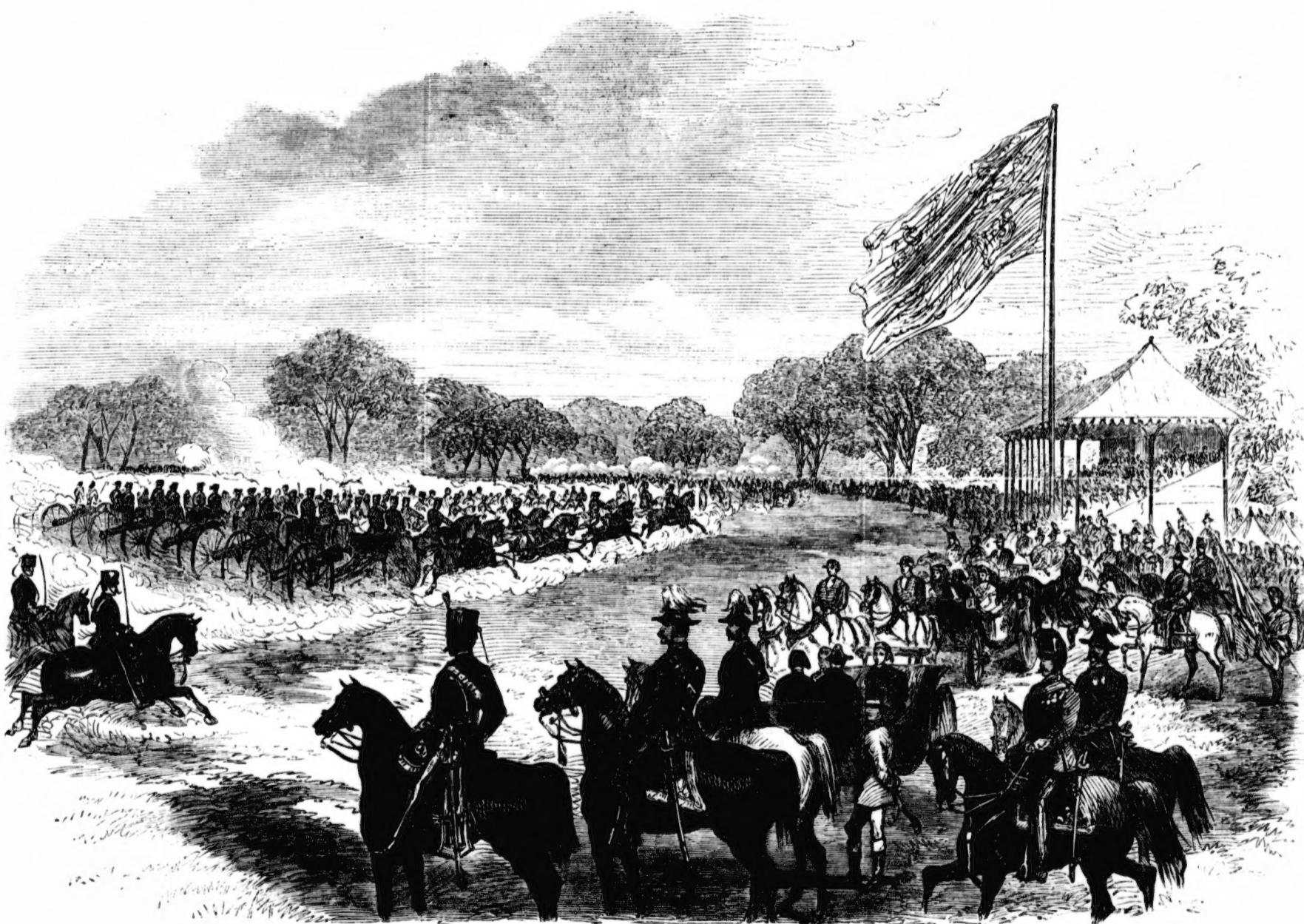
"LANDSCAPE DRAWING," LUNETTE AT SOUTH KENSINGTON, BY G. D. LESLIE, R.A.

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

In that one of the new rooms at South Kensington devoted to the exhibition of competitive drawings by the pupils of the schools, the semicircular spaces of the upper portion of the side walls are now being decorated with a series of designs illustrating the

various branches of study. The following are the names of the artists and of the subjects intrusted to them:—1, Drawing from the life, W. F. Yeames; 2, Goldwork, R. Townroe; 3, Anatomy, F. W. Moody; 4, Free-hand drawing, R. Redgrave, R.A.; 5, Still-life, D. W. Wynfield; 6, Landscape, G. D. Leslie, R.A.; 7,

Modelling from the life, E. Crowe; 8, Flower-painting, E. B. Barwell; 9, Painting from fruit, A. Morgan; 10, E. J. Poynter is to furnish another study, but the subject is not yet decided upon. We have engraved one of the most graceful of these compositions—the study of landscape, by G. D. Leslie.



THE REVIEW AT WINDSOR: THE ARTILLERY GALLOPING PAST.—SEE PAGE 2.

THE LOUNGER.

THERE needs a "Pride's Purge" at the Reform Club, to clear out all the Tory malignants, who are oftentimes very troublesome, and get the club into difficulties. It may surprise my readers to learn that there are any Tories in the club; but such is the fact. The club was established by Reformers for Reformers; but long ago Toryism crept in. Twenty years back, when Pattison represented the City, members of the Reform Club were upon his opponent Mr. Masterman's committee. This so disgusted Mr. Pattison that he withdrew from the club. And now it is no uncommon thing for members of the club to vote for Conservative candidates. Lately, these Conservative members have done a spiteful deed. Mr. Smalley, the correspondent of the *New York Tribune*—one of the most respectable of the United States newspapers—wished to have the run of the club for a month. In accordance with the rule in such case provided, Mr. Bright, Mr. W. E. Forster, and Mr. Wentworth Beaumont sent in a requisition; but, notwithstanding the recommendation of these gentlemen, Mr. Smalley was blackballed. Whereupon Mr. Bright and Mr. Forster, indignant at this insult to an American gentleman, at once sent in their resignation. Mr. Bright has been invited, as a Cabinet Minister, to join the Atheneum, and will do so. It will be remembered that, during the Crimean War, Mr. Cobden was so annoyed at the Reform Club that he retired from it. He, too, joined the Atheneum. The blackballing of Mr. Smalley has caused great excitement in the club. Whilst I write, a round robin is in the course of signature to call a meeting of the members to consider what is to be done in the case. Surely, something ought to be done, and done at once, to protest against the insult and inhospitality shown to Mr. Smalley. It is known that, when a well-known English gentleman, or one not much known, travels in the United States, he may have access to all libraries, clubs, literary societies; and the like hospitality and friendliness ought to be shown to American gentlemen travelling here. It is said that there is a good deal of snobbishness at the Reform. Men are often rejected, forsooth, because they are traders. Can such things be and not excite our special wonder? Why, the trading community is the very life and soul of the Reform party. This contemptible snobbishness, if it exists, ought to be resolutely stamped out.

It is now said to be almost certain that my Lords will pass a clause giving glebes to the Episcopalians, the Presbyterians, and the Roman Catholics—or, in other words, level up. This will be a wonderful thing to come from the House of Lords. The rationale of it is, that many of the peers cannot endure the thought of turning the Episcopalians out into the cold; and, seeing that this must be done unless something be given to the Catholics and Presbyterians, they will consent to this leveling up. Others, Lord Grey, Lord Russell, &c., adopt this course upon principle—the old Whig principle—that a large religious body being a great power in the nation, the State ought to have control over it. They look upon Churches as a sort of spiritual police, and think that, as such, they should be controlled by the State. If the bill should come down to the House of Commons with this provision in it, will the House reject it? At first, no doubt, it will be opposed by the Government, and rejected by a large majority. It is thought, though, that many of the Liberal party, and certainly some of the Conservatives, will vote for it. Well, then it will go back to the Lords, who will, it is rumoured, resolutely "insist" upon the amendment. And then will come the crisis. Will the Prime Minister still advise the House to refuse consent, and thus lose his bill? My own opinion, whatever that may be worth, is that he will not. He will, I think, accept the amendments under protest, as a pis aller. And, though I dislike the concurrent endowment scheme, it seems to me that, rather than lose his bill, he ought to accept the amendment. But will the country allow him to do so? To a very large party, including all the Dissenters, the endowment of Popery is utterly abhorrent. They might be brought to give manse and glebes to the Church and to the Presbyterians, and would gladly, if they had the chance, get these good things for themselves; but to endow Popery is to commit a deadly sin (Please, by-the-way, to note that my objection is not to the endowment of the Catholics as Catholics, but simply to endowments). But remember that there will be very little time for the country to express its opinion; only two or three days, or at most a week. The Lords are working well. They will get the bill through Committee next week, it is thought, and, if so, it will be in the House of Commons again the week after. Parliament, I fancy, cannot, under any circumstances, be prorogued before Aug. 12. The House of Commons, though, is literally working double tides.

Rumour, authentic I think, reports that another aristocratic swell, a member of one of the most ancient of our noble families and a member of Parliament, has had to dive under—in short, cannot meet his heavy liabilities. There will, though, be no sale of effects; for the simple reason that his Lordship has very little to sell. Whether the father of the gentleman is involved is not known. It is to be hoped that he is not; for he, from no fault of his own, is notoriously not rich. My friend Blogg, who is still in town, imparted this news to me, with a strict injunction to mention no names. I soon, though, discovered that the story was widely known. Nevertheless, I shall obey my friend's injunctions. Blogg was very mournful over the late crash of certain noble houses, and angry with me that I could not find it in my heart to sympathise with his sorrows. "Why, you don't," said he, "seem to care anything about it." "Not much," I replied; "these gentlemen have most of them—perhaps all—handsome settlements; more than sufficient to keep the wolf a long way from the door. They will not lose a single comfort; on the contrary, they will still live in luxury." "But the disgrace!" "Well, there is not much of that, I suspect. If I were to sorrow, it would be that there is not more." "But, surely you must grieve to see these old noble houses tumbling into ruins?" "Not I. If noble families play the fool, they must, like families not noble, pay the penalties; and I would not, if I could, alter it. And I am thankful that though we can protect a noble noodle or rogue from arrest, we cannot save him entirely from the penalties of his folly or knavery."

How deliciously inconsistent and illogical even clever men can be when they forsake—for personal, party, or class purposes—the broad and plain paths of common-sense was well illustrated by the Bishop of Oxford in his speech on the Irish Church Bill in the House of Lords on Monday night. The saponaceous Prelate declared that he could not consent to establish Popery, because its doctrines were erroneous; but he had no objection to endow it, because those doctrines contained truth. Can anybody explain the meaning of this? or reconcile what to ordinary minds appears a simple contradiction? The greater includes the less; and if Popery, as a whole, be so false as to be unworthy of establishment, how can it be so far true in particulars as to merit endowment? Perhaps Dr. Wilberforce means that the endowment granted to Roman Catholicism shall be proportioned to the degree of truth it teaches, and its disestablishment in a ratio corresponding to the measure of its errors. But, in that case, who is to determine the quantity of truth—who gauge the degree of error? If Protestants are to be the judges, then, I fear, the endowment accorded to Popery would be slender indeed; while, if Papists are to be the umpires, the share they would allot to themselves would be so very considerable that the portion left to Protestants would probably be less than nothing at all. Then his Reverence of Oxford said further that he claimed for the disestablished Church in Ireland such a measure of endowment as would give it a fair start, commencing independent life, as it was about to do, when no longer in the heyday and vigour of its youth—being older, and therefore more feeble, I suppose, than its great rival, Roman Catholicism; but he added that a Church that "cannot maintain itself without establishment"—and therefore, of course, without endowment—"did not deserve to be established at all." Again I ask, how does the Bishop reconcile these conflicting dicta? If the Irish Church can maintain itself without the help of establishment, it cannot stand in need of endowments to give it a "fair start"; and if it cannot so maintain itself, then, according to Dr. Wilberforce,

it does not deserve either establishment or endowment. This last is my opinion; but it is utterly irreconcilable with the Bishop's desire for concurrent endowment of Protestantism and Popery; and, I think, is a very pretty specimen of the "tangled web we weave when once we practise to deceive"—ourselves, which I fancy must needs be the Bishop's case.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES, ETC.

I have seen and examined a good many drawing-books in my time, but the one now before me—entitled *A Progressive Drawing-Book for Beginners*, by Philip H. Delamotte, F.S.A., Professor of Drawing in King's College and School, London (Macmillan and Co.)—strikes me as being the best of them all. It is a very full, carefully-written, and abundantly illustrated manual for the young student. As for the examples, the author says:—"The whole of the plates have been engraved by a new process, by means of which a varying depth of tone—up to the present time the characteristic of pencil drawing—has been imparted to woodcuts. For this process I am indebted to Mr. J. D. Cooper, whose care in executing the drawings with fidelity and accuracy cannot be too highly praised." I should certainly never have supposed that the pictures were from the wood, so much do most of them resemble the work of the cedar pencil. My own feeling about all elementary books is that they are too analytic to begin with, too fond of stripping a subject bare to its skeleton or scaffolding, &c.; making the learner begin from that—a process in which I do not believe; but, if that plan is to be adopted, by all means let us have teachers like Mr. Delamotte to work it out.

I have received the *Newly Married Couple*, by Björnson, translated by Mr. Theodor Seelhoff (Lacy), but cannot give an opinion about it offhand.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* I regret to have forgotten to speak of in place. The June number contained a striking paper by Mr. G. W. Hastings, upon Lord Campbell's posthumous volume—chiefly as it related to Lord Brougham. The effect of Mr. Hastings's paper—written from point of view at once friendly towards Brougham and just towards Campbell and others—is briefly this: that Lord Campbell's memoir is utterly untrustworthy—because, among many reasons, the author of it had no understanding of Brougham's peculiar playfulness; and was, besides, a most inaccurate writer. Mr. Hastings tells one very good story in illustration of the manner in which Brougham's fun must often have hit Campbell in a way not likely to be forgotten. When there was some question about retaining the Great Exhibition in its original place, not far from Stratheden House, Campbell said that, if they kept it standing there, he would pelt it with halfpence. "Ah, Jack!" said Brougham, "if you pelt it, it will not be with halfpence."

The *Leisure Hour* has found a new artist—or perhaps fished up an old one again. At all events, the illustrations to the July part are noticeably good, and the artist's manner is new to me.

Since Mr. Justin McCarthy left the *Star*, I do not know who has been editing it; but I believe that Mr. John Morley, editor of the *Fortnightly*, has now taken the chair of direction. It would be impertinent to say that Mr. Morley is a gentleman of high ability; and, though there are many differences between him and me, it is impossible not to hail with pleasure the decision and completeness of treatment which seem, quite lately, to characterise the writing in the *Star*. While on the subject of newspapers, I may mention that from July 1 the price of the *Pall Mall Gazette* is a penny instead of twopence; and the editor announces that this change of price will be the only change the paper will undergo—in other words, that it is to be as good as ever it was.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

I only dealt with the fortunes of the CHARING-CROSS THEATRE last week, as far as Mr. Hime's operetta and Mr. Cheltenham's comedy were concerned. Burlesque is to be a feature in the programme at the new theatre, and therefore one is inclined to examine attentively the first production of the kind. Mr. W. S. Gilbert's extravaganza, which he has founded on Bellini's famous opera of "Norma," and which he calls "The Pretty Druidess"; or, the Mother, the Maid, and the Mistletoe Bough," is certainly entitled to consideration. It is an experiment, and it will be for the public to decide if extravaganza is to eclipse burlesque. Mr. Gilbert has all along taken his own line on this form of entertainment. He first introduced us to the lighter musicians of the French school. He has all along snubbed breakdowns and eccentric dances. He is no lover of short petticoats. His work is superior in a literary sense to that of most of his brethren. In a word, those to whom a Strand burlesque, with its men dressed up as women, and other well-known peculiarities, would be a "thing of beauty and a joy for ever," might, in all probability, vote Mr. Gilbert's extravaganza slow and tame. However, they have attracted a good deal of attention at the Royalty and Gaiety, and elsewhere, and it would appear as if the Charing-cross patrons would elect for extravaganza. "The Pretty Druidess" is singularly unconventional, and will be found to have little in common with the Adelphi travestie by Oxberry, memories of which, in connection with Wright and Paul Bedford, may still linger in the mind of the persistent playgoer. In the present case long dresses are far more the rule than short. There is no corps de ballet; dances are few and far between, and none of the songs owe their origin to the music-halls. The libretto is singularly pointed, sharp, and occasionally witty, and has so much force in it—that—as it should do—it amuses and enchains the audience without any of the aids I have mentioned as being absent. And then there is another thing: "The Pretty Druidess" is excellently played, and, strange to say, the author loses nothing at the hands of his interpreters. The management has wisely cast about for clever ladies, and I noticed none of those elegantly appointed young creatures with padded calves, a great deal of gold lace, and rings up to the knuckle of each finger. Mr. Gilbert was lucky in getting such a Norma as Miss Hughes—a thoroughly useful and intelligent actress. It is really a treat to hear Miss Hughes deliver her lines—not a point, not a joke, not a turn is ever missed; and more than this, Miss Hughes has a rich and sweet voice, and tragic force enough to make the scene in which she discovers Pollio's affection for Adalgisa intensely dramatic. The Adalgisa is the clever little Miss Kathleen Irwin, who plays so well in the comedy. That she is a lady of taste may be seen from her pretty rendering of the duet with Pollio, "Pity, pity take on me!" and also throughout that capitally-pointed dialogue with Norma—pages 21 and 22 in the book, please, Gentlemen—wherein Adalgisa confesses her love and Norma discovers her husband's infidelity. Miss Cicely Nott is the Pollio, and Mr. Barker plays Oroveso, the Druidic high priest, with a certain robust notion of humour. His make-up, by-the-by, as Julius Caesar is excellent. On the whole, this extravaganza seems to me a very good specimen of its class. It is short, compact, plays sharply, and never wearis the audience. A dead set is somehow being made against burlesques, and the very word is like a red rag to a bull. Perhaps trifles such as the "Pretty Druidess," and as well played, will calm if they do not quell the storm. I cannot help thinking it a pity that Mr. Gilbert appended to his extravaganza a satirical "tag." Owing to the characteristic bad taste of English audiences, who persist in getting up to go before the play is over, I fear it is not often heard thoroughly, and on this account I think it as well to print it. I quite agree with it, as may be gathered from my remarks above; but I fear the satire of the author, who knows very well he has not offended good taste in any way, may be taken as a hit at the authors of burlesques who constantly do so.

(NORMA comes forward.)

So ends our play. I come to speak the tag,
With downcast eyes, and faltering steps, that lag,
I'm cowed and conscience-stricken—for to-night
We have, no doubt, contributed our mite
To justify that topic of the age—
The degradation of the English stage.

More courage to my task I, perchance, might bring
Were this a drama with real everything—
Real cabs—real lime-light, too, in which to bask—
Real turnpike keepers, and real Grant and Gask
But no—the piece is common-place, grotesque,
A solemn folly—a proscribed burlesque!
So for burlesque I plead. Forgive our rhymes;
Forgive the jokes you've heard five thousand times;
Forgive each breakdown, cellar-flap, and clog,
Our low-bred songs—our slangy dialogue;
And, above all—oh, ye with double barrel—
Forgive the scantiness of our apparel!

Mr. Toole's performances at the SURREY have been in every way successful. Domestic drama, in the somewhat lachrymose form of "Dot," and in the somewhat hackneyed form of "Dearer than Life," has made its mark even on a melodramatic Surrey audience. Mr. Toole has been considerably assisted lately in his transpontine wanderings by Mr. Henry Irving, whose John Perybingle, in Mr. Boucicault's drama, is a very excellent performance. But the dramatic partnership between these artists must cease on Tuesday next, when Mr. Irving takes his benefit at the Surrey, and Mr. Toole plays for the last time in London for many months. Mr. Irving goes to the Haymarket to play a short engagement and a principal character in Miss Sedgewick's new comedy, preparatory to appearing in Mr. Boucicault's new drama, which has, I am led to believe, a strong local interest, at Drury Lane. Mr. Toole starts at once on his usual provincial tour, and will not be seen in London again until he appears as a "fixed star" at the Gaiety, where he is engaged at Christmas. I am given to understand that particularly attractive bills are proposed for Monday and Tuesday next at the Surrey. A new comedy, by Mr. Andrew Halliday, is announced at the Royalty; and the last nights of the present season at the Globe are advertised.

I see that a benefit performance for Mr. John Parry is announced to mark the retirement into private life of this inimitable artist. It is sad to see no mention whatever of the theatrical profession in the matter, and dismal enough to find an amateur performance of "She Stoops to Conquer" as the only attraction announced. Amateurs are very good fellows in their way, and no doubt mean well in coming forward on this occasion. But then John Parry is a distinguished man, and I do not think he should be allowed to go off like a damp squib. I am quite sure that hundreds in the profession would be very willing to come forward on such an important occasion, and would regret that it should be left to the "old amateur friends"—and are they such very old amateur friends?—of Mr. John Parry to bid him good-by. Mr. John Parry is a friend of the public. This is public, not a private occasion.

OBITUARY.

SIR WILLIAM A'BECKETT.—Sir William a'Beckett, late Chief Justice of the colony of Victoria, died at his residence, Church-road, Upper Norwood, on Sunday last, after a long and severe illness, in his sixty-third year. He was educated at Westminster, and was called to the Bar, at Lincoln's Inn, in 1829. He was afterwards Solicitor and Attorney General of New South Wales and resident Judge at Port Phillip, and was Chief Justice of Victoria and Judge of the Admiralty Court there.

THE REV. EDWARD GRESWELL.—The death of the Rev. Edward Greswell, Senior Fellow and Vice-President of Corpus Christi College, took place on Tuesday, after a long illness, in his rooms in the college. Mr. Greswell took his degree as far back as Easter Term, 1818, when he obtained the honour of a double first class. He became fellow and tutor of his college; but has been better known, especially of late years, as a student and author. The University Press published his "Fasti Temporis Catholicorum" in 1852, a work of immense research, in five volumes 8vo, with tables in 4to. From the same quarter issued, in the year 1854, his "Origines Kalendariæ Italicae," in four volumes, and in 1862 his "Origines Kalendariæ Hellenicae," in six volumes. Mr. Greswell's illness commenced, more than a year ago, with a stroke of paralysis, from which he never recovered.

DR. J. A. TODD.—The Rev. James Henthorn Todd, D.D., Senior Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, and Regius Professor of Hebrew in that University, who died on Monday, was a man of more than ordinary mark, both as a scholar and as a divine. A son of the late Mr. C. H. Todd, whose name was well known in Dublin half a century ago as an eminent surgeon, he was born in Dublin in 1805, so that he was in or about the sixty-fourth year of his age at his death. He passed a brilliant undergraduate career at Trinity College, where he graduated about forty years since, and was elected to a fellowship in 1831. While still a young man he distinguished himself by his theological and miscellaneous writings, among which the best known were his "Memoir of St. Patrick's Life and Mission," "Discourses on the Prophecies relating to Anti-Christ," "The Search after Infallibility," and "Anti-Christ" (the Donnellan lecture at Trinity College); most of these, it will readily be seen, are more or less of a controversial character. He also edited some of the works of John Wycliff, including "The Last Age of the Church" and his "Apology for Lollard Doctrines." He subsequently devoted himself to the work of editing some of the ancient records of Irish history from original MSS. Of these, the best known are "The Martyrology of Donegal," and "The Book of Hymns of the Ancient Church of Ireland." Dr. Todd may be regarded also as the founder, or at all events the chief establisher, of the Irish Archaeological Society; and he was the contributor of very many important papers to the *Transactions* of the Royal Irish Academy, of which he acted as president for the usual term of five years. More recently he was engaged in editing, for the series published under the auspices of the Master of the Rolls, an account of the wars of the Danes and Norsemen, from MSS. in the libraries of Trinity College, Dublin, and of Brussels. He was elected to a senior fellowship in 1850; and, besides his Regius Professorship, held the appointments of librarian of the University and treasurer of St. Patrick's Cathedral. Dr. Todd was much beloved and respected in Dublin, and his loss will be felt in literary and clerical circles on both sides of the Channel.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL AND THE LORDS.—The Liberation Society has passed resolutions condemnatory of many of the Lords' amendments, and especially of the proposals for building churches and parsonages, and providing glebe lands for the Roman Catholics and Presbyterians, which is declared to be in direct antagonism to the deliberate decision of the people, as expressed at the election and since affirmed by their representatives in the House of Commons. The last resolution of the society is to the following effect:—That the Committee therefore advises the friends of religious equality throughout the three kingdoms immediately to take such steps as will make it evident that the mind of the nation has undergone no change in regard to the principles on which the disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church should be effected; and that it desires that the measure introduced by her Majesty's Government, and sanctioned by unprecedent majorities in the Lower House of Parliament, should, so far as concerns all its essential provisions, pass into law. Other bodies are stated to be preparing for similar action.

ROSS SHOW AT THE HORTICULTURAL GARDENS.—One of the most brilliant fêtes of the season at the Horticultural Gardens took place on Tuesday, on the occasion of the great rose show. The exhibition was divided into no fewer than twenty-one classes, in most of which there were a large number of contributions. It was open to amateur as well as professional nurserymen, and both were well represented. So extensive was the collection that the large conservatory was insufficient for its accommodation, and additional space had to be found in the arcades. Among the more delicate colours the Marechal Niell of Mr. B. R. Gant, of Colchester, attracted much admiration; and the Duke of Edinburgh, a damask rose, exhibited by Paul and Son, of Cheshunt, was remarkable for its richness of hue and beauty of form. In addition to the cut roses, there were others in pots, and some in vases and bouquets. The long line of tables presented, indeed, an almost endless variety of excellent specimens; and the spectator could not but feel that the work of the judges had been anything but light or easy. Very shortly after the doors were opened the visitors began to arrive, and as the afternoon wore on the upper part of the gardens was literally thronged by a brilliant company. The exceptionally bright sunshine greatly added to the beauty of the scene and to the enjoyment of all present.

HER MAJESTY'S MINISTERS AT THE MANSION-HOUSE.

A GRAND banquet to her Majesty's Ministers was given by the Lord Mayor, on Wednesday evening, at the Mansion House. Mr. Gladstone responded to the toast of the evening, the Lord Chancellor for the House of Lords, and the Home Secretary for the House of Commons. The health of "The Ladies" was given in a characteristic and humorous speech by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In the course of his speech Mr. Gladstone said:—

"My Lord Mayor,—This company is well aware, as the whole country is aware, that the House of Commons, and her Majesty's Government in the House of Commons, have at least bestowed their best endeavours in the conduct of a measure which, as they hope, both by what it is in itself and by what it promises for the future, forms a vital and essential portion of the work of peace for Ireland and of security for the empire. During three months we spent the chief of our care upon the maturing of that measure, and on such a measure three months were but a short time to spend. Since it passed beyond our portals there has been, I am told, great excitement in the country. We have read of meetings here and there, and there has been a blaze of sky-rockets repeated from point to point around the whole horizon. We are told of the indignation of the people. We are told of reaction in the public sentiment. The course we have pursued and the measure we have proposed have been branded in language more severe than it would be convenient on this festive occasion to recall. Sanguine anticipations were entertained, in the first instance, that our measure would elsewhere meet with a speedy doom. Since these anticipations have been disappointed others have been raised up to serve the same turn, to the effect that if the bill, as a phantom, might be allowed to escape legislative condemnation, yet it would come back to us so altered that we should not know it, so that we should have no choice except either total and utter failure, in both the name and substance of our work, or else the acceptance of the name with the loss of the substance. Under these circumstances, my Lord Mayor, and amid this tumult of excitement which we are told prevails, we have remained—I speak for my colleagues; I speak as an observer for the House of Commons—in a state of great tranquillity. We have remained tranquil for this reason—In the first place, it is not matter of judging or of jealousy, but of satisfaction, that our work should be reviewed elsewhere. We can honestly say that we have bestowed on it the best of our care and pains, and that we have laboured with no stint of our time or faculties to perform the duty committed to us by the country. But, at the same time, no doubt, there may be faults in our work, and, as was well said by my noble friend Lord Granville—for whom I may, perhaps, say, parenthetically, I have been charged to convey the expression of his deep regret that grave indisposition and the absolute necessity of husbanding his physical strength for his exertions in the House of Lords have alone prevented him on this occasion from sharing your Lordship's hospitality—as was well said by my noble friend, we shall be grateful for every improvement that may be effected in our measure, and every change proposed shall be respectfully considered, even though at the first moment—nay, it may possibly be at the last moment—we shall not be able to regard it as an improvement. But every change proposed shall have our respectful consideration. It shall have that consideration subject also to the recollection of the position in which we stand, of the words we have spoken, of the pledges we have given, of the commission we have received. Those pledges were few and simple. We told the country in language intangible enough that in our opinion, if the Irish Church was to be removed from that position of legal precedence it has so long enjoyed, it must be removed subject to those conditions; above and before all, there must be a most careful and liberal attention paid to every just and equitable claim. The second of these pledges was that those just and equitable claims must be considered, not only in the cases where they are proved on the part of those who have been ministers of the disestablished Church, but wherever, directly or by consequence, they could be justly held to arise out of the arrangements connected with the winding up of this ancient system, and must be applied with a perfect impartiality on behalf of every denomination. So far as respects the arrangement growing out of the complicated and exceptional state of ecclesiastical affairs which we found existing in Ireland; but the basis of the plan was this, that it was a plan of disestablishment and a plan of general disendowment. There was a third pledge, also not less momentous, nor less definite than the rest, a pledge freely tendered to Parliament, and freely tendered at the hustings; but I do not hesitate to say a pledge which if not freely tendered would have been extorted by the national sense and opinion—namely, that after the satisfaction of these equitable claims or principles of equality, as between different religious denominations, the remaining portion of what is now the property of the Church of Ireland should be applied for the benefit of the Irish people, but not to the maintenance of a Church nor the support of a clergy. These were the conditions which, as a matter of historical fact, attended our concession. They form a clear and manifest covenant between us and the country. We tendered the terms of that covenant when we sat in the exile of Opposition. We shall not forget it now that we are installed in the seat of power. I believe that both branches of the Legislature will apply themselves to the adjustment of this great controversy in a full and clear perception of what the time and circumstances admit, and I am sanguine enough to believe that within a short period our work, which in my opinion is alike a work of peace and justice, will have reached its final term and accomplishment."

THE FARMERS AND STATISTICS OF AGRICULTURE.—The question will in time force itself upon all farmers, Is there anything to be gained by accommodating the Board of Trade in its inquiries? And the answer will be in the affirmative. Farmers, like other people, ought to know how best to carry on their business when every fact in connection with its progress is before them. For, although it is true that many ignorant men have succeeded in farming, yet there is no profession in which it can more truly be said that "knowledge is power." And, after all, there is no business that need fear the effects of honest, open inquiry less than that of farming. It is, surely, only a remnant of feudalism that impels a husbandman to keep his doings as secret as possible, lest his landlord or his neighbours should know too much—a reticence which is carried so far that some men never tell the truth as to the price they get or give for any portion of their stock or produce. These are the sort of men who are afraid to make the evidence of their position clear to their own minds, and so refrain from bookkeeping or any other work which could reveal to them the precise state of their affairs. Still, there can only be a few people who would contend that bookkeeping is not most desirable in agriculture. That agricultural statistics will not all at once assume all the importance they are capable of is quite true. But if the farmers of this country would make up their minds to furnish all the statistical information they fairly can, statistics of this kind would soon take a form that would be of the utmost importance to the public at large, and also to the intelligent agriculturist himself.—*Chamber of Agriculture Journal*.

CORRUPT PRACTICES AT ELECTIONS.—Mr. Baron Martin and Mr. Justice Willes were examined before the Municipal and Parliamentary Elections Committee on Tuesday. The former learned Judge detailed his experience at the election assize in the present year, and stated that he had tried eleven petitions. Bribery existed to a considerable extent in two of the boroughs visited by him, but in some places treating prevailed to an enormous extent. The contest at Norwich was a particularly pure election on the part of the candidate who was defeated; and his opinion was that the bribery on the other side was without the knowledge of the Conservative candidate. His Lordship referred to the expenses of Mr. Smith in Westminster, which he characterised as enormous; he had no doubt, however, that he was robbed to a very considerable extent. The present law of agency was very hard and harsh, but, if it were departed from, acts would be committed which it would be difficult to deal with. Mr. Justice Willes, in the course of his evidence, suggested that the prohibition of the use of public-houses as committee-rooms, and the closing of these places on the day of election, might to a great extent do away with the evil of treating. The Commissions of Inquiry into the political condition of several peasant boroughs were gazetted on Tuesday. Mr. E. P. Price, Q.C., Mr. Chisholm Anstey, and Mr. C. E. Coleridge are the Commissioners for Bridgwater; Mr. Sergeant O'Brien, Mr. T. I. Barstow, and Mr. Homershaw Cox, for Beverley; Mr. Waters, Q.C., Mr. C. Molloy, and Mr. W. Griffin, for Cashel; Mr. Heron, Q.C., Mr. J. A. Byrne, and Mr. W. R. Bruce, for Sligo; and Mr. G. M. Dowdeswell, Q.C., Mr. H. Mansfield, and Mr. R. J. Birrell, for Norwich.

THE EARLSWOOD ASYLUM.

THIS asylum is situated in an open country not far from Reigate and Redhill. The first stone was laid by the Prince Consort in 1853, and he opened the institution in 1855. The building is large and handsome, having more the appearance of a baronial castle than of a hospital. It is surrounded by about eighty acres of land, much of which is laid out as pleasure-ground for the recreation of the inmates. There are at present in the asylum 478 patients, of whom 316 are males and 162 females. It is worthy of remark that while in county lunatic asylums the number of female patients is usually larger than that of males, the reverse has always been the case at the Idiot Asylum. This institution receives no public grant. It is maintained on bequests, subscriptions, and the surplus of the pensions paid for the paying patients. It has been found that the treatment which is beneficial in insanity is not at all so in idiocy. To do anything for idiots is difficult, and requires incessant application on the part of those who undertake the task. Many of them are afflicted with paralysis, and phthisis is the principal cause of their mortality. One of the results of the treatment of the patients is that many of them who were, or appeared to be, quite dumb when they entered the institution now speak. The power of speech is regarded as in some degree an index to their mental condition; and it is melancholy fact that of 146 boys now under instruction only 64 can speak fairly, as many as 30 can only utter a few sounds, and 16 cannot speak at all. Among 145 girls under instruction there are 35 who do not speak at all. Of abstract reasoning idiots seem, as a rule, to be utterly incapable. It was found at Earlswood that when a number of them, who had been instructed in elementary arithmetic, were asked to apply their knowledge of addition or subtraction to anything but small balls in a frame and chalked figures on a board, by means of which they had been taught, they had not the least idea of it. They could not count if the counting had to be done in money or weight. To meet the difficulty Dr. Down, the late medical superintendent, established a shop in the school-room, and by making the pupils act as salesmen and customers alternately, and causing them to deal with real weights and coins, he succeeded in somewhat improving matters; but at the present time of the 146 boys under instruction only 24 know all the coins and weights and can calculate a little, 23 know all the coins and some weights, 29 know a few coins only, and 47 know none. In the workshops 24 men and boys are employed as tailors and 17 as shoemakers. They do the work of sewing well; but not one of them could be trusted to cut out a garment or a pair of shoes. These statistics afford a fair idea of what can and what cannot be done for the idiot. It seems as if each idiot has some small share of mental faculty which may be made useful if it be put in the right groove. This is what is done at Earlswood under the direction of the medical superintendent. The patients are trained in such occupations as, after a fair trial, they are found to display a taste for; and this plan has been pursued with such success that a number of lads and girls who received their instruction in the asylum are now earning their bread outside. There are now 12 idiots working as farm servants and 12 as gardeners at Earlswood. One patient faithfully discharged the duty of postman, and another that of letter-carrier to the establishment. There appears to be good reason for concluding that with proper classification idiots can be much more successfully treated in large numbers than on a plan of isolation, and accordingly the demands for admission to Earlswood are so much in excess of the accommodation that an enlargement of the institution has become a necessity.

To lay the first stone of the additional buildings, the Prince of Wales went down to the asylum on Monday, accompanied by the Princess. Their Royal Highnesses arrived at the Earlswood station at twelve o'clock, by special train, on the London and Brighton Railway. The station was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and a guard of honour composed of the 5th Surrey Rifles was drawn up to receive their Royal Highnesses. The band of the Grenadier Guards, conducted by Mr. Dan Godfrey, and the band of the Hon. Artillery Company were also in attendance. When their Royal Highnesses stepped out on the platform Mr. C. J. Smith, Mayor of Reigate, and several of the aldermen and town councillors of that borough came forward with an address of welcome, which was read by the Mayor.

The Prince of Wales made the following reply:—

Gentlemen,—I thank you for the kind terms you have used towards me in your address, and for your professions of loyal attachment to the Queen and Royal family. The vicinity of the Earlswood Idiot Asylum to your borough has created in you an interest corresponding with my own in its welfare and prosperity. The objects of this common anxiety are entitled to all our efforts to ameliorate their condition and to render, under God's blessing, lighter the affliction with which it has pleased Him to visit them.

Mr. Charles Reed, M.P.; Mr. J. Abbiss, treasurer of the asylum; Mr. Sheriff Hutton, and other gentlemen, then conducted the Prince and Princess to the outside of the station, where one of the Royal carriages was in waiting. Mr. Sheriff Hutton had his state carriage in waiting for the Archbishop of Canterbury, who arrived by the Royal train. A procession of carriages was formed, and proceeded at a walking pace to the asylum, which is about a mile from the station. The people for miles round had turned out to see the Prince and Princess, and in enthusiastic cheers, which were so constantly renewed as to be almost continuous, they gave expression to their delight at the compliment paid them by their Royal Highnesses in coming among them in so stately a manner. The avenue from the principal gate of Earlswood to the lawn in front of the building was profusely decorated with bright flags, and the standard of the Prince of Wales was hoisted on the centre turret of the asylum the moment the Royal carriage had entered the outer gate. When it drew up the band played the National Anthem, and, amid renewed cheers, the Prince and Princess alighted and proceeded to the board-room.

After a delay of a few moments another procession was formed—one on foot, to proceed to the spot where the foundation-stone was to be laid. It passed from the vestibule, through the dining-hall and by the rear of the building, on to a spacious tent in which a brilliant company, numbering about 700 or 800, had assembled. A body of police marched in front; then followed the band of the Grenadier Guards, playing Handel's March in "Scipio;" next, the architect, with drawings; after him the board of management, two and two; then the treasurer and the secretary, with records and scrolls; and, next, the stewards, patrons, and presidents of the charity. The Archbishop of Canterbury, in his episcopal robes, and his Grace's chaplain, followed; and then came their Royal Highnesses, attended by their suites. When the Prince and Princess took their places on the dais prepared for them, the scene was splendid and imposing. The ladies and gentlemen who had awaited their coming had all risen to receive them, and were cheering and waving hats and handkerchiefs. Standing in front of two chairs of state, and at each side of the foundation-stone, were the Royal pair bowing their acknowledgments. The stone, one of very great weight, was suspended in the centre of the dais from a large gilt hook and a series of pulleys. On the face of it was an inscription in golden letters recording the event of the day. When the cheering which had greeted the arrival of their Royal Highnesses had in some degree subsided, Mr. Abbiss read an address, to which the Prince of Wales replied.

The treasurer then handed his Royal Highness a silver trowel, and Mr. C. Reed, M.P., handed him the mallet which was used by the Prince Consort when laying the first stone of the Infant Orphan Asylum at Wanstead, and which his Royal Highness subsequently gave to Dr. Andrew Reed, the hon. member's father. A good supply of mortar having been brought to the Prince of Wales in a mahogany hod, his Royal Highness spread a sufficient quantity to make a setting for the stone. Then, amid cheering, the stone was slowly lowered, and the Prince tapped it with the mallet, tested it by rule and plumb, and, amid a flourish of trumpets, followed by the National Anthem, pronounced it to be well and truly fixed. The Archbishop of Canterbury then offered an appropriate prayer, which was followed by a hymn, of which there was an instru-

mental performance by the band of the Grenadier Guards, while the words were sung by the entire company.

The Prince and Princess then took their seats, and, to the march of King Christian IX. of Denmark, there was an interesting, and, for the charity, a most gratifying procession. It was one of ladies, who, to the number of 380, in single file, ascended the dais on the side at which the Prince was seated, passed to the foundation-stone, upon which each deposited a scarlet leather purse containing 5 gs., and then descended on the side at which the Princess was seated. Every lady made an obeisance to the Prince on ascending, and one to the Princess on descending, which was acknowledged by their Royal Highnesses with a dignified affability that charmed the spectators. A less extended procession of gentlemen followed. Each of them also deposited a purse containing 5 gs. In all, 400 purses were laid on the stone; but it was not until this portion of the ceremony had come to an end that the company were informed that immediately he had fixed the stone the Prince handed the treasurer a cheque for 100 gs. as a contribution to the funds of the charity. As the Prince and Princess were leaving the marquee three cheers were given for the Queen and three for their Royal Highnesses. After a déjeuner, at which the Royal visitors honoured the governors of the institution with their company, the Prince and Princess planted a tree each on the lawn in front of the building, and then took their departure. Not fewer than a thousand ladies and gentlemen, besides a vast crowd of humbler people, joined in giving them a parting cheer.

HYDRAULIC PROPULSION.

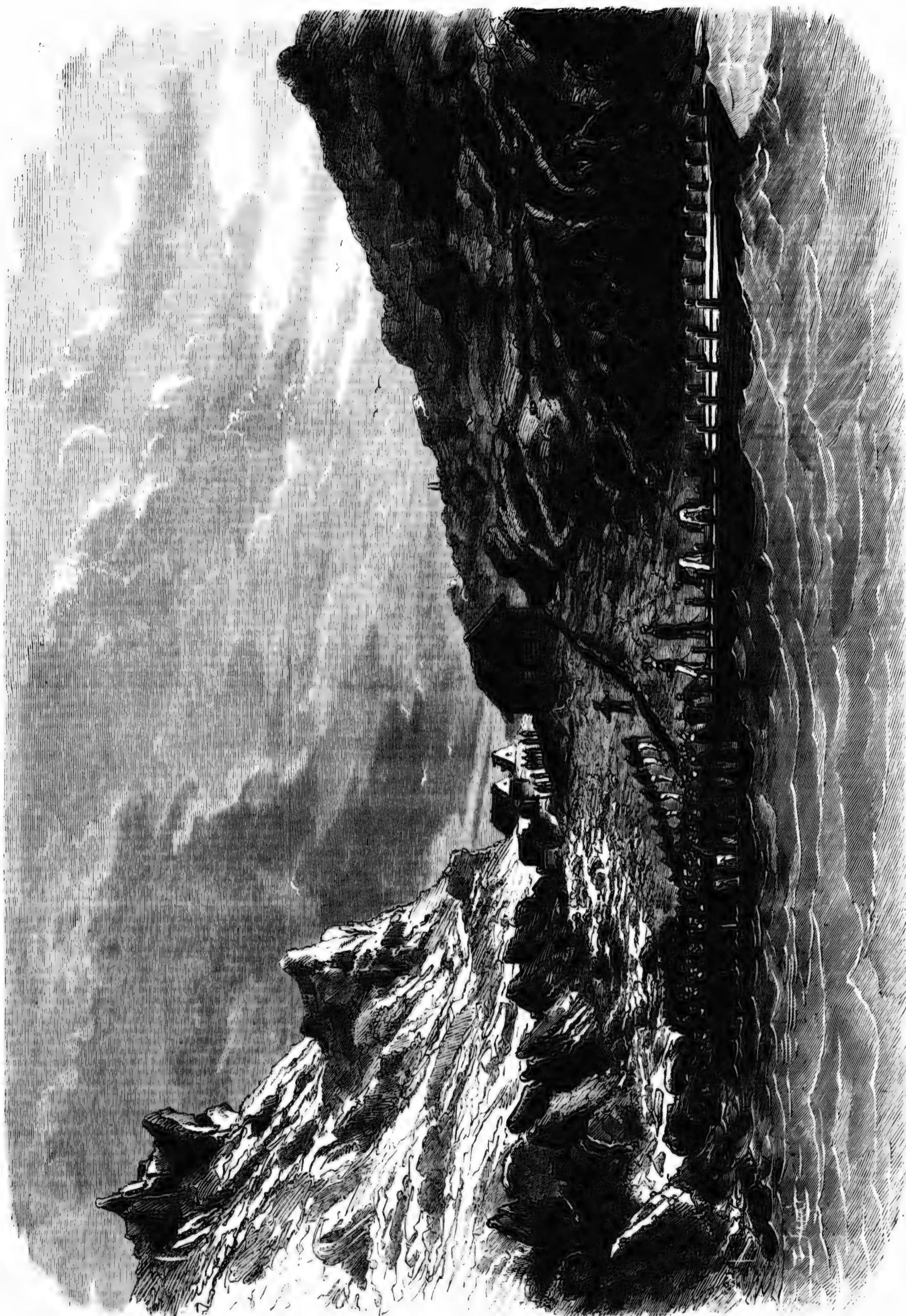
IT is about two years since the public heard of the trials made in H.M.S. Waterwitch of a new method of propulsion, destined, so its inventors affirmed, to supersede screws and paddles alike in the merchant service and the Navy. The method, indeed, was not new in the sense of being a recent invention; for it had long before been brought under public notice by Mr. Ruthven—so long that the original patent had expired, and an extension of it had been granted by the Privy Council. But the singularity of the proposal was itself sufficient to account for its slow progress to success. The system consisted in pumping water into a ship and ejecting it through nozzles at the sides with such force towards the stern as to drive the vessel forward; or, if need were, towards the bow, so as to drive the vessel stern foremost; or forward on one side of the vessel and astern on the other, so as to turn her on her centre. When the novelty of this idea was overcome, it was seen by practical men to possess several obvious advantages. The propelling action was perfectly steady in its action, working alike in any weather or sea, saving the risks of external screws or paddles, and the weakening of the vessel by the interference of the screw-shaft with the stern; free from all danger of fouling, having the immense advantages of getting rid of almost any quantity of water a leak could admit, and presenting extraordinary facilities for stopping or turning. What remained to be tried was the question of speed. To test this element the inventor had a vessel constructed to ply on the Thames as a passenger-boat, in competition with those regularly at work. This experimental boat, christened the Nautilus, tried against one of the Citizen company's boats, of rather smaller size, but more powerful engines, fairly beat her. The Nautilus also developed all the other advantages claimed for the new method of propulsion, with the additional merit, important to seamen, of being found entirely free from vibration due to the engine. Meantime the Admiralty selected the Waterwitch, then in process of construction, with the Vixen and Viper as sister gun-boats, of 160 ft. in length, 750 tons, and 160-horse power, for an experiment of their own. The former was fitted with the hydraulic propeller, the two latter with twin screws. On the first trials, at Maplin Sands, in 1866, the Vixen and Viper made respectively 9·2 and 9·1 knots. At the same place the Waterwitch, on her first trial, in January, 1867, made 9·9 knots. Further trials were ordered at Stokes Bay, and came off in August, 1867. The Vixen then made 9·0 knots, the Viper, 9·7 knots; the Waterwitch, 9·23 knots. At half power the Vixen made 7·34 knots; the Viper, 7·33 knots; the Waterwitch, 6·16 knots. In circling the Vixen and Viper made the full circle in 3 min. 20 sec.; the Waterwitch in 4 min. 11 sec. Except in the matter of full speed, these figures are against the Waterwitch; but, on the other hand, she underwent some trials in which her rivals could not compete with her. She went astern at a rate of 7·9 knots; and she turned on her centre, without use of her helm, in 6 min. 25 sec.; and by reversing the discharge-pipes she was stopped from full speed ahead in 1 min. 9 sec., or within a space only twice her own length.

These results were so satisfactory in the matter of speed—the only point in which a deficiency was anticipated—that it might have been expected the experiments would have been continued and extended. But, unfortunately, the Waterwitch is one of the vessels that are not built to swim. On her voyage from Portsmouth to Plymouth she all but went to the bottom, the risk being so great that the Admiralty presented a watch to the chief stoker as a reward for courage in remaining at his post in time of danger. This misadventure was attributable solely to the seas breaking over her, and was in no way connected with the character of her propeller. But her unseaworthiness being thus proved, of course no good experiments could afterwards be made with her, and the Admiralty have rightly refused to send her to sea. The inventor applied to have the engines and propeller taken out of her and fitted up in another vessel; but this "my Lords," on Aug. 1, last year, formally declined, on the ground that the Waterwitch, notwithstanding her defects, too useful a vessel for many purposes to justify their Lordships in removing her engines from her; and the proposition to fit another vessel with the hydraulic propeller must be deferred for the present.

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THE WIMBLEDON REVIEW.—To enable the necessary arrangements to be made, it is requested that the officers commanding the metropolitan volunteer corps who intend to be present at the review will send in the usual application for permission to attend, through the Lord Lieutenant of their respective counties, in sufficient time to ensure the receipt of the application at the War Office on or before the 6th inst. It should be stated on the application whether the corps will proceed to Wimbledon by railway, or whether it will march there, or make its own arrangements for proceeding by steam-boat.

THE FENIAN PRISONERS.—A meeting was held in the Rotunda, at Dublin, on Monday night, to advocate the release of the Fenian prisoners. Some rather wild speeches appear to have been made. "Bide your time, put your trust in God, and keep your powder dry" was Mr. Butt's version of the motto for true Irishmen. Mr. Williams, of Dungarvan, on the other hand, did not advocate a resort to fighting implements. He thought the prisoners should demand justice of the English Government (they would not accept mercy); and, if it was refused, let the blood be upon that Government's own head. About 4000 persons were present.



LAVING THE SHORE END OF THE FRENCH ATLANTIC CABLE AT PETITE MINOU, NEAR BREST.

ON THE UNTERSBERG.

THE holiday season is to commence early this year. Such is the general impression; and, as the general impression is in such matters either founded on some natural instinct or expressive of some common determination, we may take it for granted that all the world—by which, of course, we mean about half the people in London—is waiting only for real summer weather to begin their annual exodus. The Hall-by-the-Sea at Margate is already preparing its attractions; a little enthusiasm is displayed on behalf of the more neglected cockney watering-places on our coasts; and a very laudable effort is being made to remind excursionists that the charms of the Emerald Isle are as fresh and as true as ever; that the people are as warm-hearted and as hospitable; and that a thorough invasion of English visitors at Killarney, and the Giants' Causeway, and all the tenderly-beautiful scenes that distinguish Old Ireland and make it the "gem of the sea," would be the best opposition that could be given to Fenianism, if any should still be lingering in those remote districts to which holiday visitors seldom penetrate.

There are a large number of our countrymen and countrywomen, however, who seek in foreign travel that thorough change of scene which does so much to alleviate the weariness of a year's hard work amidst the London streets; and we have heard that both at Berlin and Vienna we shall be adequately represented, while those who have already done Mont Blanc and the Rhine will turn their attention to those eastern Alps where there is so much to explore, and in which even a moderate proficiency in mountaineering will give such charming opportunities for the observation of grand and picturesque scenery amidst dark wood, and mountain pass, and rushing torrent, alternating with grand old cities, strange outlying villages, quaint historical towns, feudal castles, and places where even the very rocks have a legendary interest. We will suppose the happy tourist to have reached that queer central spot known as Innsbruck, whence excursions may be made all round, and chiefly to the impressive city of Salzburg. Indeed, the whole route to Salzburg, if the traveller will carefully avoid the temptation of going by railway, is full of interest, and is in itself a charming tour; for it includes a visit to the lovely Königs-See, of which we some time ago published an illustration. Then there are glens and streams on all the road to Waidring, from which place to Rechenhall must be made a pedestrian excursion if the traveller would thoroughly enjoy the remarkable scenery and witness the strange appearance of the Hohe Platte, a range, the higher part of which consists of vertical rocks sustaining an upper terrace of Alpine pasture. Between these and the Feilhorn is a mountain path, leading to the upper level, where geologists may find abundance of fossils. Then there is the road from Waidring, through the upper glen of the Strabach, to the Piller See, a road, by-the-by, that lies through a deep and narrow defile, where the holes and clefts have been rounded by the action of water. It is only a two-hours' journey to the sheet of blue water which lies at the base of the peaks named Lofer Steinberg, and near the village of Ubrich, whence the climber may try the ascent of the Flachhorn, one of the highest of the Lofer Alps. For our part, we would prefer the road to Lofer through that picturesque glen where the limestone strata look like blocks of masonry, and where in the narrowest part of the defile may be seen the remains of a real wall and gateway, relic of the desperate resistance of the Tyrolese peasantry to the French and the Bavarians in 1805, and again in 1809.



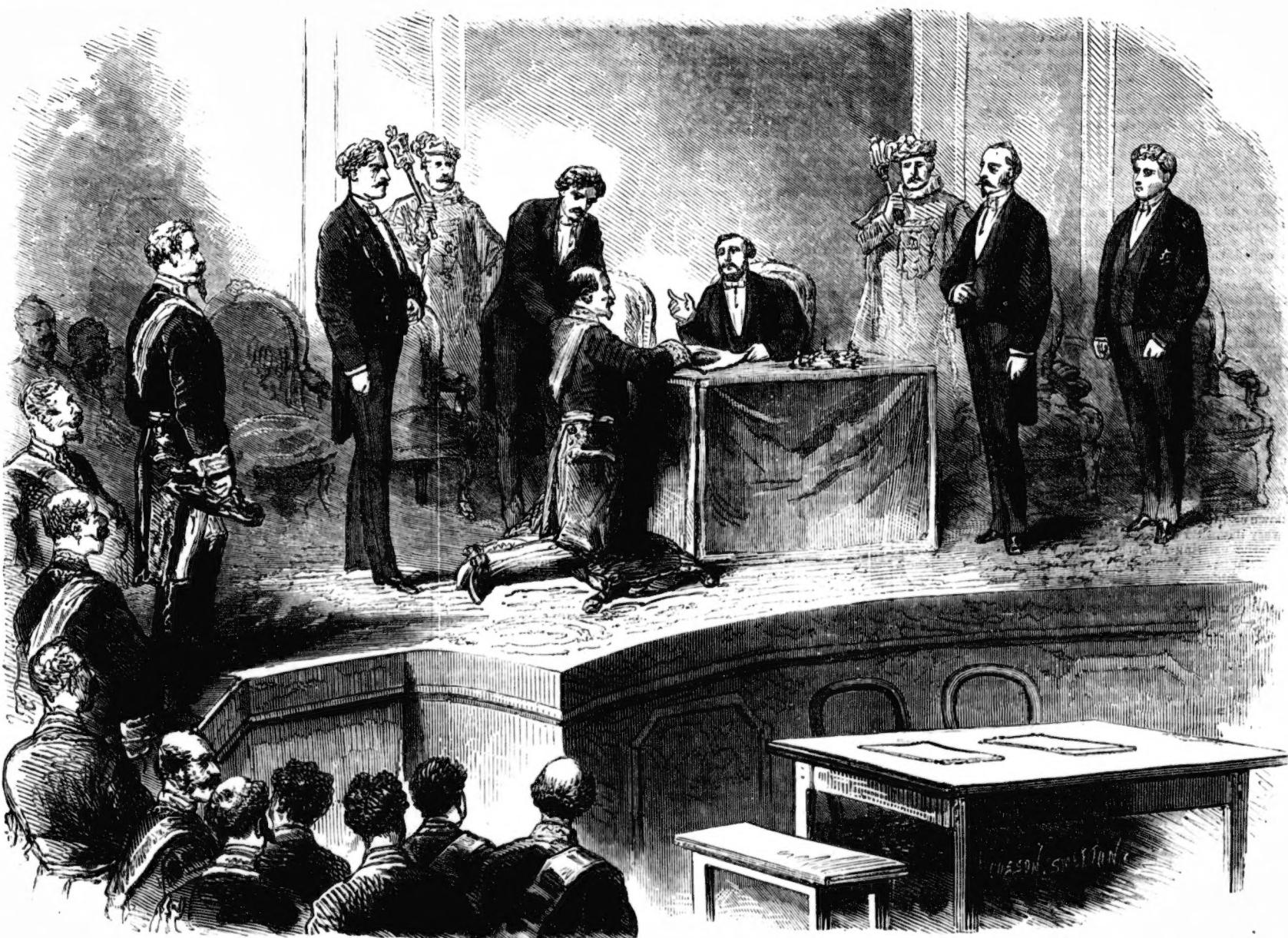
THE GLASSQUELLE (BRIGHT SPRING) IN THE UNTERSBERG.

So we reach Lofer, amidst its amphitheatre of peaks and its glorious scenery; but we may find ourselves almost alone there, for it is not a post town, and the way to Salzburg

follows the course of the Saale, which frets and foams amidst huge blocks that have fallen from the surrounding mountains. We may stay at Unken, to go up the Sontagshorn for the sake of the glorious view. The practical tourist may do well to remember that between Unken and Salzburg the high road traverses a strip of Bavarian territory full of beautiful scenery, and that the Austrian paper-money is only taken at a considerable reduction, and is absolutely refused at the Bavarian railway stations. Those who intend going by this road direct to Salzburg should have their luggage plumped before leaving Austrian territory, so as to avoid further trouble on returning to it, some ten miles further on. All the way to the capital of Salt, the birthplace of Mozart—one of the most beautifully-situated cities in Europe—the most conspicuous object has been the great range of the Untersberg—that mountain in which the peasant of South Germany who remembers the mythic tales of his forefathers says that Charlemagne, or Frederick of Hohenstaufen, or Charles V. is held in magic sleep in one of the deep caverns, to come forth again, awake and ready for action, when Germany is once more united and restored to its former glory. It is not settled which hero is to be the real ruler over the Fatherland, and opinions vary in different districts; but at any rate the Untersberg is to be the scene of the strange resuscitation. The noises made by the murmur of water in the deep clefts and caves, the strange whispers and babblings of dripping falls and trickling streams, give a weird character to some parts of these heights, which may well have given rise to some such legends; and the very outline of the mountain, which is not unlike that of the Egyptian Sphinx, with the head turned towards Berchtesgaden, and the opposite end to Salzburg, does not decrease the strange impression. In some parts of the range the ascent is difficult, being a mere rough wall of rock, or where there is any soil the creeping pine forms a barrier requiring considerable activity to surmount. Water, too, is scarce, so that the traveller will do well to provide himself with drink. The view from the summit of the highest peak is truly fine; but the exertion required to reach it is very great, and most tourists may well rest contented with more accessible portions of the chain, such as the Kolowrats Höhle, an ice cavern discovered twenty-two years ago, the entrance to which is on a part of the ridge accessible from a little village about four miles from Salzburg, whence it may be reached in about four hours with guides, lights, and ropes for viewing it at leisure. Every part of this magnificent range may be visited with interest, and the more accessible portions are full of beauty, even those parts like that represented in our illustration, where some kind of rude accommodation for excursionists may be found: spots such as Glassquelle—"The Bright Spring." As a parting word of advice to all who intend to visit the Eastern Alps we would say, first study the capital guide-book just published by Messrs. Longmans, and written by Mr. John Ball, late president of the Alpine Club.

THE FRENCH ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CABLE.

The telegrams received from the Great Eastern during Friday and Saturday of last week have been to the general public rather vague and unsatisfactory, and during Saturday a feeling of uneasiness as to the success of the expedition very generally prevailed, which, if not warranted, was certainly, on the whole, not unnatural. Some tele-



MARSHAL SERRANO, AS REGENT OF SPAIN, TAKING THE OATH TO THE CONSTITUTION BEFORE THE CORTES.

grams seemed to infer that there was an injury to the shore end; some clearly stated that faults had been found (though of very slight character) on board; and what is of more significance, it is evident that one was paid out, though afterwards hauled back and repaired. Other telegrams, too, spoke of the reflecting galvanometer at the shore end indicating that the Great Eastern was rolling—which was likely enough, and quite as certain to be plainly told as if one were watching the great ship itself. All this, of course, has been rather discouraging. It is, however, not too much to say that to those practically acquainted with cable-laying, who know the alarms which arise one minute to be dispelled the next, how fear and despondency may reign one day and the next be all triumph and rejoicing, these repeated hitches were quite expected. Read by the knowledge of where the shore end is laid, the way in which the rest of the cable is to be laid from the Great Eastern, where she is, and what she is doing, the apparently contradictory telegrams are tolerably clear, though it must be confessed that some of them are capable of further explanation. Such vast commercial interests are bound up in the success of this enterprise, and even the general public look to its progress with such anxiety, that we are sure our readers will be glad to have some short account of the dangers which the cable has already passed, and those which it may still have to encounter, though the latter, of course, are very problematical.

First, as to the inferred injury to the shore end. Late telegrams show what all who know this part of the line, and how it was laid, were quite well acquainted with—viz., that it is perfectly uninjured as yet, though sooner or later, and perhaps very soon indeed, it must chafe in two. There is no need to conceal this, for it really is a matter of very little importance. The cable-ships of the Maintenance Company would repair a break or even replace the five miles of shore end from a better landing-place in twenty-four hours. The shore end is laid from a place called Petite Minou, and not Petite Minon, as it has been erroneously spelt and printed up till now. There are two Minous, about eight or ten miles above Brest. One is Minou plain and simple—a mere grim chasm in the rock-bound coast. Petite Minou is a little semicircular nook, open to the whole swell of the Atlantic from the west or south-west, and with such a surf breaking upon the sand that boats can rarely land there even in the calmest weather. In fine weather this little indentation is covered with sand to a considerable depth. In stormy weather—that is to say, for about eight months of the year—the sand, it is stated, is almost completely swept away, leaving the rocks bare. From this little bay the shore end is laid at an acute angle with the line from which the swell generally sets in; but during the fine weather—that is, while the sand is there—it can do little or no mischief. In bad weather, however, when the sand is gone, and when the great waves hurl up blocks of stone weighing many tons on to the rocks, it cannot be denied that the cable, for more than a mile's length from the shore, will almost daily be exposed to the risk of serious injury, and that, apart from the risk from stones, its constant chafing from side to side upon the rocky bottom must sooner or later cut it through. One of the telegrams speaks of the probability of the shore end being damaged by the anchors of coasting-vessels or of "sand-barges." With due deference, however, we think this excuse a childish one, or rather no excuse at all. No coasting-vessel anchor outside the harbour under that wall of rocks; and all the coasting-vessels in Brest might hold on the shore end for ever without hurting it; and if any coasting-vessel did hook it, it would lose its anchor, for most assuredly it could never be got up again. The case of the "sand-barges" is equally unsubstantial. At this time of the year small row-boats or sail-boats, according to the weather, are allowed to take away their two or three tons of sand from Minou beach; but to speak of these little craft as sand-barges, or the injury they may do the Minou cable, is so absurd that one cannot help for a moment thinking the French company are not unwilling to let these imaginary dangers be known, that the public may cease to think of others which are more significant. Assuredly the danger to which the shore end is exposed is in no degree due to anchors. When the Great Eastern started, on the 21st of last month, there was for a time great difficulty in "speaking" the ship, and this gave rise to uneasiness which was not allayed until it was found that the fault existed in the speaking instruments themselves, when the matter was soon set right; and the incident is only worth mentioning here as an instance of the trivial and easily remediable causes which often give rise to great alarm. When the first Atlantic cable was being laid between the Agamemnon and Niagara a similar mistake on board the latter vessel caused the most serious delay and risk to the whole enterprise.

On Friday night a telegram was received from the Great Eastern announcing that the resistance of the gutta-percha had fallen; that there was evidently a slight fault, though so slight that its place could not be discovered, and it was not known whether it was in board or had been paid out; and that they had determined on board the ship to proceed. How this fault was known is very soon explained. The electrical condition of a cable is judged by what are called the units of resistance which it offers to the passage of a current through it from end to end. "Everything takes time" is a rule to which there is no exception, and it applies to electricity, rapid as it is, as well as to all other things. If a cable is perfectly insulated, so that the current cannot escape except at the other end of the conductor, it passes through slowly, so to speak, and this slowness is called resistance. If it is not well insulated, electricity escapes quickly through the faults, and the cable gives less resistance, which is only another term for a bad line. This resistance is counted by millions of units, and of course, the greater the number of millions of units' resistance the better the cable. The present French cable gives a minimum of 250,000,000 units' resistance, the highest average yet attained with a cable not submerged. When a line is laid, the uniform temperature of the sea and the great pressure it is subjected to, improve its electrical condition every day it remains under water, and the maximum of improvement of the oldest-laid cables has never yet been reached. Thus, the Dover and Calais cable, which has been down eighteen years, has continued to improve ever since up to this very day. So with the Hague cable, laid ten years ago; and so with the existing Atlantic cables, which were guaranteed to have a resistance of 200,000,000 units, but both of which, since they have been submerged, have risen to a resistance of 4,300,000 units, and are still rising daily.—*Times*.

On Wednesday morning a telegram was received at Minou, near Brest, from the Great Eastern, announcing that she was going to cut the French Atlantic cable and buoy it. This, it was supposed, had been done, as no messages had since been received. Captain Sherard Osborn states that he sees no cause for alarm, and Mr. May agrees with him in thinking that the Great Eastern has buoyed the cable in shoal water, and is returning to remove a fault. When last reported 1038 miles had been paid out.

Our illustration represents the process of laying the shore end of the cable in the bay of Petite Minou, an operation in which a large number of English and French sailors were engaged.

TAKING THE OATH TO THE SPANISH CONSTITUTION.

OUR last week's Number contained an account of the ceremony attending the installation of Marshal Serrano as Regent of Spain and of the administration to him, in that capacity, of the oath to the Constitution before the Cortes, of which last-mentioned incident we now publish an Illustration. The troops throughout the country, as well as other public servants, have also had the oath of fidelity to the Constitution administered to them with great solemnity. At Barcelona the celebration of the new Constitution has been conducted with the utmost enthusiasm. The Barcelonans exhibited their loyalty by decorating the palace before which the people assembled, and where a tribute was reserved for the officials on a platform decorated with flags and masts bearing shields and devices. The reading of the terms of the National

Constitution having been completed amid loud acclamations, the General commanding the troops addressed the soldiers, asking them to swear loyalty to protect the new Government; and after they had responded to the appeal, the troops of the Line marched past. In the evening the whole town was illuminated, and a complete fête testified to the satisfaction of the people. Our Illustration represents the ceremony of administering the military oath of allegiance.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

It has been suggested that the title "Hamlet" applied to M. Ambroise Thomas's opera, so called, is really a misnomer; and it is certain that if the French lyrical version of "Hamlet" had been named "Ophelia" the question would not have been raised in too direct a manner whether or not Shakespeare's tragedy had received worthy treatment at the hands of its operatic adapters. Ophelia, too, who is not the chief character—who is scarcely even a character of the first degree of importance—in Shakespeare's "Hamlet," is the principal personage, both in a musical and a dramatic point of view, in the "Hamlet" prepared for the composer by MM. Barrier and Carré. Moreover, the longest, most elaborate, and altogether the best scene in the operatic "Hamlet" does not exist in the "Hamlet" of Shakespeare at all. Here, at least, the name of Shakespeare cannot be used against M. Thomas; and if he had written this scene alone and entitled it "The Death of Ophelia," one universal feeling of admiration would have been expressed for the work. The object, however, of M. Thomas was not to produce a poetical little cantata, but a grand opera, containing a great part for Madlle. Nilsson; and, accordingly, the scene of Ophelia's death is followed by an act which is superfluous and preceded by three acts which are in a great measure irrelevant. The parent notion of the opera was certainly the idea that the fair-haired, soft-voiced Scandinavian soprano would be in every way an admirable representative of Shakespeare's Scandinavian heroine, and so indeed she has proved. Madlle. Nilsson has deeper qualifications for the part than the purely external ones, which, nevertheless, may be said to suggest the others. All the sentiment of the character seems to belong to her naturally, so that, as an actress alone, if she had not a note to sing, she would still be an admirable Ophelia. Moreover, the pure, fresh quality of the voice is quite in harmony with the rest of the personation. The amount of Scandinavianism discoverable in the character of Shakespeare's Ophelia is, we fancy, very slight; but M. Ambroise Thomas has given tinges of national colour to the music sung by the Ophelia of his opera. This he has done, not by the vulgar expedient of dragging in any one national air in complete form, but by reproducing the character of the Swedish melodies (for operatic purposes Sweden and Denmark are one) in both the heroine's grand scenes, and employing here and there actual passages of Swedish origin. There are few characters, we should think, in all dramatic literature less favourable for musical treatment than Hamlet. The address to the Ghost, the interview between Hamlet and his mother, are, to be sure, "dramatic" enough in the ordinary sense of the word, and form suitable groundwork for operatic scenes. But the character of Hamlet is chiefly known to us from the two great monologues; and the monologues, though a composer of the very highest genius might doubtless be able to find appropriate music for them, are not the sort of "words" that any ordinary composer would like to set or could adequately deal with. M. Ambroise Thomas, differing from all the Italian composers who have grappled with Shakespeare, has, we think, made an honourable endeavour to give to his principal personages their proper musical physiognomy. Verdi (to take the most flagrant instance) makes Macbeth, in the most terrible moment of his career, when its tragic termination already stares him in the face, sing a sentimental air of the conventional pattern, and would doubtless have treated "To be or not to be" as he has treated the "words" which in the libretto of "Macbeth" replace "Can't thou not minister to a mind diseased?" &c. But, though his intentions would not have been so meritorious as those of M. Ambroise Thomas, the thing achieved would have been melodious. The air would have had no philosophical character, but it would have been singable and what is vaguely called "expressive." It would have been, so to say, in rhyme; whereas M. Thomas's Hamlet sings persistently in blank verse. The only notable case in which the operatic Hamlet breaks into evenly-balanced, sharply-defined rhythm is (if we except a few eloquent passages in the finale and the second act) in the drinking-song which he addresses to his friends the players in lieu of the well-known hints on acting. Mr. Santley delivers the air with excellent dramatic effect. Nor must we forget to mention that his acting and singing were equally fine—both perfect—in the concerted finale to the second act, where the indignation of Hamlet, the terror of the King, the grief of Ophelia, and the remorse of the Queen, are expressed. On the whole, the composer of so many agreeable operas in the light style and of so much pretty ballet music seems to us in "Hamlet" to have forced his talent. Yet a decided exception must be made in favour of his truly poetical Ophelia; and M. Thomas must at least be thanked for having furnished one of the most graceful and accomplished artists on the lyric stage with a part which suits her as if she had been born for it.

For the last thirty-three years Mr. Benedict's concert has been an event in our musical season, and its recurrence the Wednesday before last attracted a very numerous and fashionable audience. Some admirable specimens of Mr. Benedict's latest compositions were presented, the most important being the andante and finale from a sonata for piano and violin (op. 88), published about a year ago. This work is laid out on the grandest scale, each movement being developed with an amplitude of treatment and a variety of resource denoting the sound and earnest musical thinker and the practised master. It abounds in brilliant bravura passages for both instruments; the capabilities of each being exhibited with the skill of one who knows them thoroughly. In the execution of the two movements specified Mr. Benedict was associated with Madame Norman-Neruda; and the result was perfection. The beautiful air, "Father, whose blessing" (from Mr. Benedict's "St. Cecilia"), was expressively sung by Madame Patey. The programme also included a new ballad by Mr. Benedict, "Little Willie," besides a duet for piano and harp (on subjects from "Faust"), performed by the composer in company with Mr. J. Thomas. In addition to many eminent concert vocalists, nearly all the principal opera singers were heard; the prominent features of the concert being Madame Adelina Patti's exquisite singing of "The Last Rose of Summer" and the Shadow Song from "Dinorah," and Madlle. Titien's admirable delivery of "Non mi dir." Among the other vocal pieces was a very clever new quartet, composed expressly for the occasion, by Signer Pinsuti, and sung by Mesdames Patti and Trebelli-Bettini, Signor Gardoni and Mr. Santley. Another novelty, also expressly prepared for this concert, was a fantasia by Mr. G. A. Osborne, for four performers, on two pianofortes, entitled "Souvenir de Meyerbeer," and based on subjects from "L'Etoile du Nord." Admirably executed by Messrs. J. Wieniawski, Cowen, Benedict, and Osborne, it produced considerable effect and gained much applause. The programme also included five pieces from Rossini's "Messe Solennelle," sung by Mdles. Titien and Scalchi, Mr. Santley, and Signors Bettini and Bossi.

The recent performances of Rossini's admirable "Messe Solennelle" has suggested to a well-known English composer and writer on musical subjects (under the initials "G. A. M.") the following extravagantly absurd observations on Rossini's talent:—

When he (Rossini) took to writing for the Church and his own pleasure he abandoned the style by which he gained the suffrages of Europe; he left off adapting Sicilian, Russian, Haydn's, and other beautiful airs, to Italian opera texts, whereby he was accredited as a great melodist; he ceased writing accompaniments, that have served as frames for singing masters to train their flourishes upon for nearly sixty years, whence he is believed to have composed most effectively for singers; and he sought to fathom the resources of harmony, but brought only slime and impurity from his diving. To be sincere, a man must be natural; and to be natural

in his productions, an artist must set down what springs up most congenially within himself, irrespective of convention and even of successful precedent. For the honour of the *mæstro* (the word is accepted in a different sense from master), I hope that he was natural when he wrote "Il Barbiere," and that his nature was corrupted by the ease and affluence of his last forty years. There are folks, nay, musicians, who take great pleasure in the square-cut canzonas, the calculated vocal effects, the crawling harmonies which wail up and down like wind in a chimney, and are entangled like gentles in a fishing-box or mites in a cheese, the violent modulations, and the percussive instrumentation, of Rossini's style in his period of richness, indolence, and obesity; to these my views appear to be highly presumptuous as they are remote opposite to their own.

One abstract principle laid down in the above criticism is undoubtedly true, and, like much that "G. A. M." writes, is well put. "To be sincere a man must be natural, and to be natural in his productions an artist must set down what springs up most congenially within himself, irrespective of convention, or even of successful precedent." But it seems to us that Rossini was always natural, and that, more than most other composers, he was in the habit of setting down "what sprang up most congenially within himself." It is for that reason that his critics are able to say with perfect truth that his music for the theatre and his music for the church are very much alike, the explanation of this lot very remarkable similarity being that, whether writing religious music or dramatic music, Rossini was always Rossini.

At the concert given by Herr Maas, an artist who has written much and well for the piano, which, however, he chiefly cultivates as an executant, the programme included a capriccio, the work of Herr Maas, two polonaises by Chopin, and a fantasia by Thalberg, all performed by the concert-giver; with a variety of pieces, vocal and instrumental, for which the services of efficient singers and musicians had been secured.

A "memorial" concert, consisting of selections from the works of the late Herr Molique, is announced.

SHOCKING TRAGEDY IN THE CITY.

EIGHT PERSONS POISONED.

ONE of the most appalling tragedies that has occurred in London for a considerable time past took place late on Sunday night, or early on Monday morning, at No. 15, Hosier-lane, Smithfield, where a man named Duggin, his wife, and six children were discovered lying dead from the effects of prussic acid. Whether the deaths of the children were caused by the man or the woman, or by both, as yet remains a mystery, though appearances lead to the supposition that the terrible tragedy was the work of the husband, who afterwards destroyed himself.

At half-past eight o'clock on Monday morning the inspector on duty at the Smithfield Police Station received a letter by post, signed "J. W. Duggin," requesting the inspector to come round to No. 15, Hosier-lane (about fifty yards from the police station), where the services of the police were required; and also stating that full particulars of what would be seen might be obtained from the brother of the writer of the letter, who resided at Bristol, at an address given. The inspector was at first inclined to treat the letter as a hoax, but on second consideration determined to act as the letter required, and accordingly dispatched Serjeant Goodeve and another officer to the address contained in the letter. On the officers arriving at the house, which forms a portion of the premises of Mr. Chawner, a manufacturing silversmith, and which is built over a gateway, they knocked at the door, but obtaining no answer they proceeded down the gateway, and, having made inquiries of some of Mr. Chawner's workmen, they were informed the only occupants of the house were Mr. Chawner's foreman, a man named Duggin, with his wife and six children. They again returned to the house door, and knocked several times, but no one came. They then procured a ladder, and gained an entrance to the house through a back window over the gateway. The first sight that met them on stepping into the room was the body of the man Duggin lying on the bed dead, with his face drawn on one side, as if he had died in great agony. On a shelf in the room were two small bottles, empty, both smelling strongly of prussic acid. The officers then went into the front room, where they discovered Mrs. Duggin lying dead on the bed, with one child on each side of her, and a third at the foot of the bed, also dead. Two elder children lay dead on a small bed, and a baby about three months old was also dead in a cot near the window. In the bed by the side of the woman was found a tea-spoon. The officer at once sent word to the station-house what they had discovered, and Dr. Wilson, the divisional surgeon of the police, was soon attendance. On raising the bodies he pronounced the woman and children as having been dead several hours, but that the man had not been dead above four or five hours. The faces of both the woman and the children presented a calm and placid appearance, as if in a deep sleep. Dr. Wilson, after examination, stated the cause of death to have been the administration of prussic acid.

From inquiries made by the police of the neighbours, it appears that Duggin and his wife were considered respectable persons, of quiet and sober habits, and extremely fond of their children, whom they kept very clean and nicely dressed. On Sunday evening, shortly after seven o'clock, the whole family left home apparently for a walk, returning shortly after dusk, after which time nothing was seen of them, except that Duggin fetched a pot of beer from a neighbouring public-house just before eleven o'clock, and the barman who served him states that he observed nothing particular in his manner or appearance.

On the supposition that Duggin was the person who perpetrated the tragedy, all sorts of rumours as to his motives are afloat, but the following are the only reliable facts connected with him. He is a native of Bristol, and has been for the last six years in the employ of Mr. Chawner, first as a journeyman, but for some time past as foreman, in which capacity he occupied the house No. 15. A few months since some silver spoons and other articles were missed from the workshops, and suspicion was entertained by the proprietor that Duggin knew something about the loss. The result of this was that Duggin received a month's notice to leave his situation, and as a consequence to give up the house to his successor. His time expired on Monday morning, and he was to vacate the house at nine o'clock in the morning, the new foreman having to take possession at twelve. Since suspicion attached to him about the loss of the property, he has been very low-spirited, which was greatly increased on receiving notice to leave his situation and the house in which he was living, and he has frequently been heard to say he saw nothing before him for his family but the workhouse. Whether the tragedy has been caused by this feeling will probably appear from the evidence of the brother at the inquest, who, Duggin states in his letter to the police, knew all the particulars. It is conjectured that the prussic acid was mixed in the pot of beer, from which the children and his wife were induced to drink, and that, after their deaths, which, Dr. Wilson says, must have been instantaneous, he laid the bodies in the manner and places where they were found, and then, going into the back room, completed the tragedy by his own destruction.

Another account says that, when the bodies of the woman and children were discovered, the bed-clothes were in each case perfectly smooth. No indications of a struggle were observable; and the absence of any outward trace of poison about the bodies and their marked cleanliness leads to the inference that each in their turn must have been washed and arranged in the manner in which they were found after the deadly mixture had been administered. On a small table in the front room was found a Bible and a bottle, on the side labelled "Poison." From the Bible, which was closed, a paper was projecting about two inches, and this proved to be the marriage certificate of the deceased man and his wife, which was performed at St. George's Church, in the county of Gloucester. On the bed in the same room a small spoon was also found. In the back room the husband was discovered in bed, with his right arm slightly raised and his head resting upon it; and on a chair at the side was found another bottle labelled "Poison." Nearly the whole of the children's wearing apparel had been neatly folded up and placed on the bed where the wretched man was lying. A further search being made, it was ascertained that several letters or

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